

**RISE AND FALL OF A TOP POLICEMAN**  
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How the youngest pupils can get into the fast lane  
EDUCATION +

**JOHN LYTTLE OUTS PETER TATCHELL**  
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Maldini  
acts over  
Italians'  
striking  
problem

# THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 23 April 1998 45p No 3,592 +

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

## Blair under siege over secret deal to accept nuclear waste from former Soviet Union



Spreading the message: Anti-nuclear demonstrators from the environmental group Greenpeace unfurl their protest banner at the gates to Downing Street yesterday. Full reports, page 2

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

## EU bungles cost £3bn a year

**By Fran Abrams**  
Political Correspondent

WASTE and fraud are costing the European Union £3bn every year, according to a report by the European Court of Auditors. The report, which is the first of its kind, says that the EU's budget is being mismanaged and that there is a significant risk of fraud. The report also says that the EU's spending is not being properly monitored and that there is a need for better controls.

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## Questions raised over McCartney's death

**By Andrew Buncombe**

QUESTIONS over the circumstances of Linda McCartney's death were raised last night after her husband, Paul McCartney, was reported to have said that she had been "assisted" and it was claimed she had not died in California.



Linda: The coroner is still waiting for death certificate

## 1990s the hottest decade in 600 years

**By Charles Arthur**  
Science and Technology Editor

THE WORLD is hotter than it has been at any time in the past 600 years, increasing the likelihood that global warming is man-made, according to American and British scientists.

the research, which is published today in the journal *Nature*.

## French fans cash in on World Cup phone-line chaos

**By Nick Harris**

AS FOOTBALL fans around Europe bombarded a single telephone number in Paris with millions of calls for extra World Cup tickets yesterday, it emerged that French supporters were still being given the chance to buy the lion's share of seats.

law. However, of an estimated 20 million phone calls which made it through to Paris yesterday, 75 per cent were made in France. Those routed from the 17 other European countries entitled to apply for seats amounted to just 25 per cent in total.

## Today's news

**National park plan**  
The New Forest should have national park status, says the Government's advisory body on landscape. Page 9

**Tobacco ban**  
A ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship throughout the EU has been backed by Brussels MEPs. Page 4

**MOUTH WATERING OYSTERS. (BUT NOT FROM OUR FOOD HALL.)**



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music

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on The Big  
Lebowski - the  
Coen Brothers  
go California  
dreaming

■ Space  
Monkeys:  
making it in  
America

■ Sliding  
Doors:  
bankrolling a  
box office  
winner



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Recycled paper made up  
41.4% of the raw material for  
UK newspapers in the  
first half of 1997.

Concern grows among Labour MPs about secret reprocessing deal to ship uranium from Georgia, report Colin Brown and Charles Arthur

# Nuclear decision excluded Cabinet

TONY BLAIR'S secret deal with President Bill Clinton for Britain to take a shipment of enriched uranium from the former Soviet republic of Georgia was approved without a meeting of the Cabinet, it emerged last night.

The deal was agreed in correspondence by members of a Cabinet sub-committee, but the Prime Minister's official spokesman confirmed that the ministerial approval was given without a meeting.

Although there was a show of support in the Commons for Britain's move, the effective rubber-stamping of the deal by Cabinet ministers will heighten the concern among some Labour MPs at the way the highly controversial secret nuclear deal was handled by the Government.

As more details of the deal - concluded in February after seven months' discussion with the United States - became public, the director of the Dounreay reprocessing plant in Scotland admitted that it will be at least two years before some of the nuclear fuel can be dealt with.

"Before we are in a position to reprocess that material we will have to make a safety case and prove to the Nuclear In-

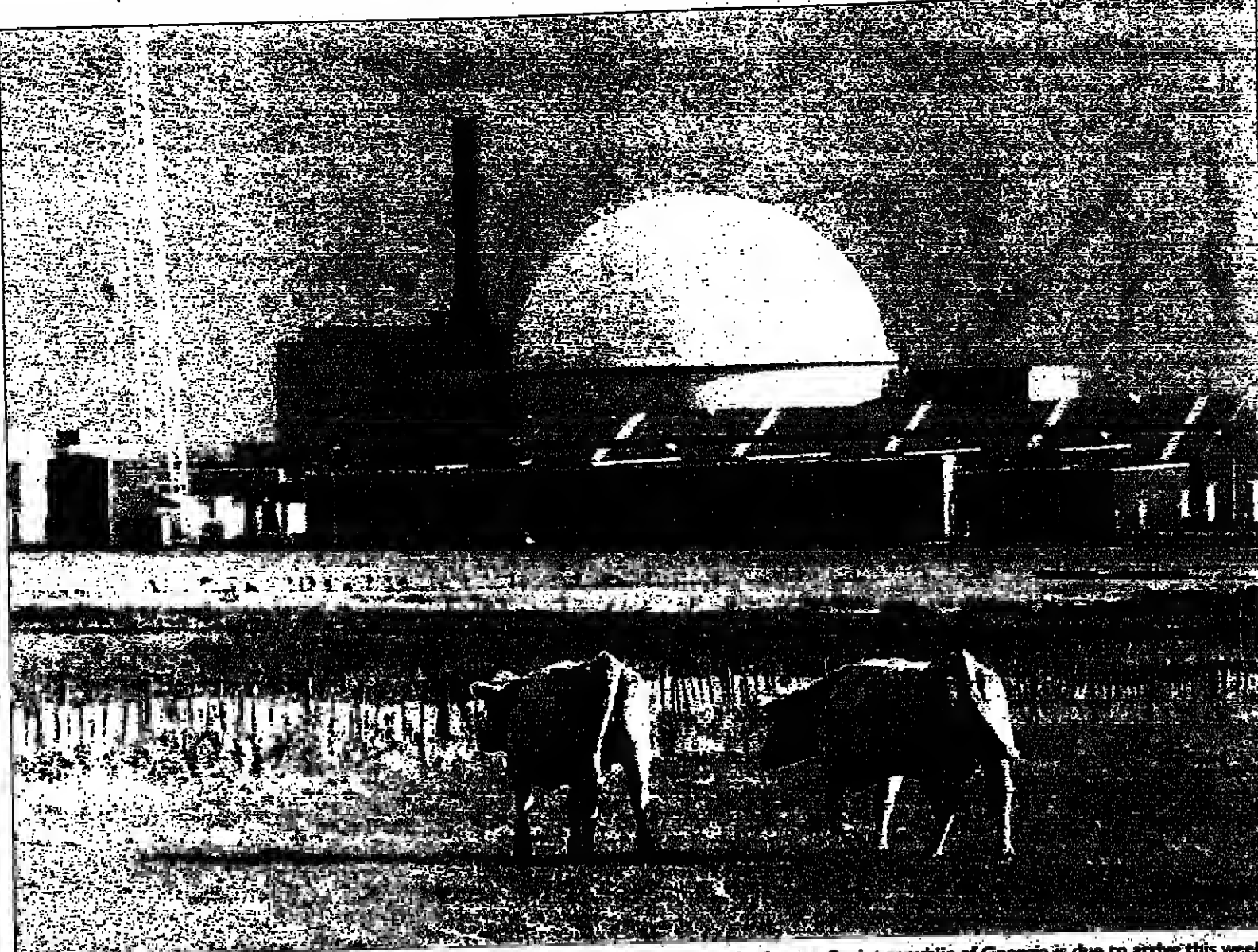
stallations Inspectorate that we are ready to go," Ray Nelson, told BBC radio.

The radioactive shipment is expected to arrive later this week at Wick Airport, about 30 miles from the plant, though government sources refused to name the date on security grounds.

Downing Street insisted that it is a "one-off" shipment, but the Government faced backbench demands for a Kyoto-style environmental summit to agree international action for dealing with the nuclear waste from the former Soviet Union.

"This is a major environmental issue facing Europe and no one is openly prepared to discuss it yet. There are 17 other nuclear power stations in East-West corridor and this could happen again. It is a nuclear nightmare staring us in the face," said Alan Simpson, a leader of the left-wing Campaign Group of Labour MPs.

Environmental protesters from Greenpeace draped a banner across the gates leading to Downing Street in protest at the decision to accept the shipment - although another campaigner, Lorraine Mann, convener of Scotland Against



The Dounreay reprocessing plant in Scotland, where the shipment of uranium from the former Soviet republic of Georgia is due to arrive this week.

Nuclear Dumping, seemed to accept the Government line.

She said: "We may not be happy about it coming here but morally we cannot say 'Ah yes, but it should go somewhere else'."

In the Commons, Tory MPs accused the Government of showing "complacency" about the widespread public concern

over the shipment. But at Question Time, Mr Blair took the lead in strongly defending the decision to take the shipment, which was first agreed with the US in July, last year, and discussed at the meeting with Mr Clinton in Washington in February.

The Prime Minister told MPs that the recycled waste

would add only two barrels to a stockpile of 14,000 barrels already in Britain. The decision was taken to avoid any threat of the uranium falling into the hands of rebels in Georgia, he said. "The US has already taken some 350kg of highly enriched uranium from Kazakhstan and Russia has taken some 137kg from Iraq

since the Gulf War," he said. Mr Blair stressed that other European countries were making contributions to the project. "That is the reason why we thought it was important to do what we did."

Britain had followed entirely the normal rules for transportation for civil nuclear fuel, he added. Accusations of "se-

crecy" over the deal were exaggerated, he said.

The Government had already prepared its draft parliamentary reply on the matter, but was overtaken by the leaking of the story two days ago. "We will give full details the moment the transportation has occurred," Mr Blair promised.

Leading article, page 18

## Deadly legacy that must be made safe

By Charles Arthur  
Science and Technology Editor

THE FIVE or so kilograms of nuclear material from Georgia is the tip of what is potentially a very large iceberg. There are 36 similar "research reactors" to the one now being decommissioned by American experts, dotted all over the former Soviet Union, and making each safe will pose its own particular set of hazards.

Though diplomatic sources have for the past two days stressed their worries that the enriched uranium fuel rods might be stolen and sold or smuggled to the Middle East, the risk posed by the nuclear materials is greater in the nearby population, given the strained

financial circumstances of science in many of the republics.

Sky News yesterday showed frightening film footage of people with radiation burns from exposure to the fuel rods, which are now kept underwater - because to expose them would spray anyone in the vicinity with a lethal dose instantly. But because the storage facility is so short of funds, it is renting some of its space out as a store for fertiliser and foodstuffs.

Though a terrorist mission to steal the fuel rods is not impossible, the greatest risk they pose is to the local population. If criminals did somehow steal the rods, they would be more likely to kill themselves and pollute the immediate environment, including the

groundwater table, than get anywhere near constructing a bomb.

Nevertheless, the Georgia shipment is just the latest in a long-running diplomatic effort to "nip up" such reactors where their contents could be at risk. According to the *World Nuclear Industry Handbook*, from Nuclear Engineering International magazine, there are research reactors in Belarus (1), Georgia (1), Kazakhstan (4), Latvia (1), Russia (27), Ukraine (2) and Uzbekistan (1). They vary in size, with potential output powers varying from a few hundred watts up to 60 kilowatts. The Georgia facility, when it was open, had a theoretical output of 5 kilowatts, though it was not used for electricity production. There are many more of the

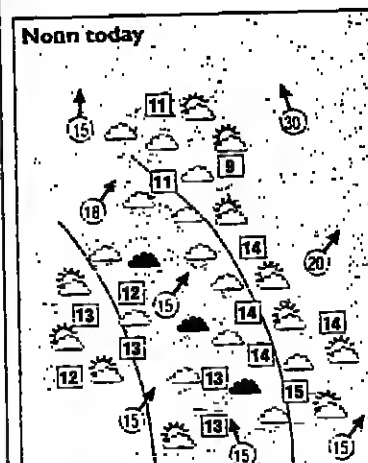
"RBMK" nuclear reactors still in use throughout the former Soviet Union, in generate electricity. In these, graphite is used to control the nuclear reaction: it was one such facility which went so disastrously wrong at Chernobyl in 1986.

The 37 research reactors, by contrast, are water-cooled, and in theory less likely to go out of control. Most are still operational: only those in Belarus and Georgia, and 7 of those in Russia, have been shut down or decommissioned.

With the costs of decommissioning too high to be borne by the local governments, the current controversy over the Georgian waste is unlikely to be the last in which countries like Britain, the US, France, Germany and Canada have to become involved.



## WEATHER



The eastern half of Scotland and England will have a dry morning once any remaining overnight rain has cleared the extreme east. However, it will cloud over in the afternoon with showery rain spreading from the west. Western Scotland, Wales and all of western England will soon become cloudy with a spell of rain lasting three or four hours, but it will clear up later this afternoon. Northern Ireland will be wet this morning but will become much brighter this afternoon.

**Outlook for the next few days**  
Tomorrow will be unsettled with another area of rain spreading from the west. The rain will be light and patchy in the south, but heavier bursts are likely in the north, although most western districts will clear up in the afternoon. On Saturday most places will have sunny spells and scattered heavy showers, but some more prolonged rain is possible in south-east England. The showery weather will persist on Sunday and Monday.

### British Isles weather

Most recent available figures at noon local time

C: cloudy; O: clear; F: fair; FG: fog; H: haze; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; SH: shower; SN: snow; T: thunder.

Aberdeen	Dr 9.48	Glasgow	Sh 13.55
Aberystwyth	C 13.55	Leeds	C 14.57
Ayr	C 13.55	London	C 16.61
Belfast	C 13.55	Manchester	Sh 11.52
Birmingham	F 16.61	Newcastle	Sh 15.58
Blackpool	F 14.57	Oxford	C 17.63
Bournemouth	C 16.61	Plymouth	R 11.52
Brighton	S 14.57	Reading	C 9.48
Bristol	R 16.61	Southampton	C 15.58
Cardiff	C 12.54	Stirling	C 11.52
Cardigan	C 14.57	Stranraer	C 13.55
Canterbury	C 12.54	York	C 13.55
Doncaster	F 16.61		
Durham	R 16.61		
Edinburgh	C 15.58		
Exeter	R 14.57		
Glasgow	C 15.58		

### Air quality

Yesterday's readings

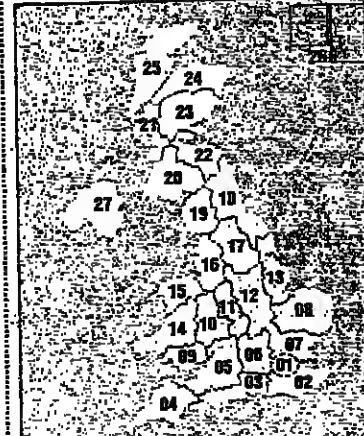
Location	NO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>
London	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good

### Outlook for today

Location	NO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>
London	Good	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good

### Out and about with AA Roadwatch

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### INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecasts dial 0831 5009 followed by the two-digit postcode for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	12.02	6.6	00.25	6.6
Liverpool	09.18	6.6	21.54	8.8
Aberdeen	05.03	11.8	17.35	12.1
Hull (Albert Dock)	04.27	7.7	16.37	7.9
Greenwich	10.47	3.1	23.07	3.1
Dun Laoghaire	09.43	3.8	22.25	3.9

### Lighting-up times

Location	20.02	10.05	Sun rise	05.49
Glasgow	20.20	10.51	Sun sets	20.10
Bristol	20.20	10.57	Moon sets	04.38
London	20.20	10.50	Moon sets	15.10
Manchester	20.24	10.50		
Newcastle	20.26	10.43		

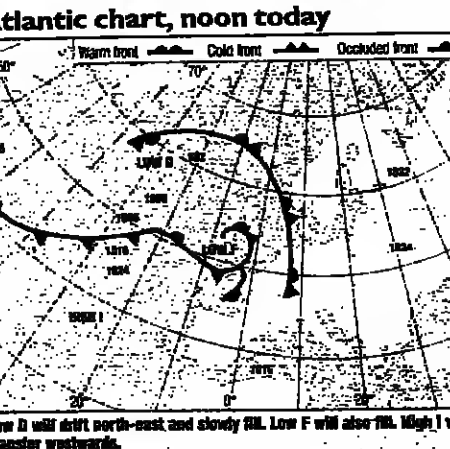
### Sun & moon

New Moon April 26

### World weather

Most recent available figures at noon local time

Aberdeen	Dr 9.48	Glasgow	Sh 13.55
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Cardigan	C 14.57	Stranraer	C 13.55
Canterbury	C 12.54	York	C 13.55
Doncaster	F 16.61		
Durham	R 16.61		
Edinburgh	C 15.58		
Exeter	R 14.57		
Glasgow	C 15.58		



## MICHAEL HANLON WEATHER WISE

CHILDREN in Britain get a raw deal when it comes to holidays. Especially the summer holidays. For a start, they get less of them. While their Continental and Irish chums as a rule get a whacking three months, from the beginning of June to the end of August, British kids have to put up with a miserly six weeks.

If that wasn't bad enough, those six weeks - from the last week in July to the first week in September - are probably some of the worst weeks in the season for children on holiday, who look forward to dry, warm and sunny days off school.

November and December are, on average, the wettest months of the year, which is not unexpected. More surprisingly, August is not far behind in the rain stakes. In Edinburgh, August and July are more than twice as rainy as April and May. May is also the driest month in the Highlands (and no midgets either), while June records consistently lower rainfall than August across the whole country. September and October too, are often drier than late summer.

The figures are backed up by anecdotal evidence. Children and university students all have memories of revision and exams being undertaken in roasting classrooms in June, the school gates opening a few weeks later, and the heavens opening a few days after that.

Similarly, the creakingly timed August Bank Holiday is nearly always a wash-out, yet September is often the finest month of the year. Clearly things need to be moved. A six-week holiday running from, say, the second week in May through to the beginning of July would give children a better chance of enjoying a proper summer holiday. So would two three-week breaks - one in late May/early June, the other in September. But, like a move to permanent daylight-saving time, the idea is far too sensible to have any chance of success.

Blockade  
in Calais  
strands  
UK lorry

Organist  
Westmins

هنا من الأعمار



# Blockade in Calais strands UK lorries

By Andrew Buncombe and John Lichfield

HUNDREDS OF British lorry drivers last night remained stranded on either side of the Channel after French seamen voted to extend indefinitely the dispute that has closed Calais.

A meeting of about 100 sailors aboard one of the four vessels in the harbour that have immobilised the port, rejected suggestions that they lift the blockade.

Last night, negotiations between SeaFrance and the CFDT union (Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail), were continuing, but a union spokesman said: "Nothing has changed at the moment and it looks as if the strike will not be over tonight."

"Management will have to give way or this strike will continue indefinitely. We are sorry that lorry drivers are stuck but this is the only way to express our grievances."

The ostensible cause of the dispute is the dismissal of a sailor, whose navigation licence was cancelled by the French authorities after he was found guilty of a criminal offence. The seamen are also demanding pay rises, better working conditions and an increase in the number of staff on board the ships.

The union says that the local dispute, which has not affected other ports, is the "drop of water" that has caused the accumulated anger from a series of other disputes to "overflow the jug".

This is of little comfort to the hundreds of British lorry drivers who for the third time in six months found themselves

caught in the middle of a dispute at Calais.

Dan Hodges, spokesman for the Road Haulage Association, said that the strike had already cost British hauliers £500,000 a day.

"The situation is totally untenable. Once again our members and their livelihoods are being placed at risk in a dispute in which they have no involvement," Mr Hodges said. "We cannot have a situation where British hauliers continue to be made the whipping boys for every individual grievance."

Geoff Dosssetter, of the Freight Transport Association, added: "Once again a strike by French workers has resulted in major inconvenience and financial costs to the British transport industry. For a major port like Calais, the frequency of these sort of incidents has become a farce."

This view was echoed by lorry drivers who had been stranded by the action and were yesterday evening facing another night at the port or on the M20 motorway in Kent where they queued for sailings to the Belgian ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge.

Driver Billy Giles, who owns his own lorry, said: "The French workers have their government backing them and I'm sure they will get what they want from this strike."

"What I want to see is the British government doing something about this. Every time we come to France there is a strike and we are the victims."

The strike began on Monday when the sailors seized four SeaFrance ferries and manoeuvred them in a position to block all cross-Channel ferry and freight traffic.



"I will insist when I come to Covent Garden to sing next time that the prices will be kept as low as possible": Domingo in London yesterday

Photograph: Laurie Lewis

## Golden tenor sings loudly for affordable opera

THERE was an irony in Plácido Domingo's statement yesterday that he would insist on prices being as low as possible next time he sings at Covent Garden, writes David Lister.

One of the many reasons that the Royal Opera has hiked up its prices in the past has been an appearance by, well, Plácido Domingo. As with that of his fellow Three Tenors stars Luciano Pavarotti and Jose Carreras, Domingo's presence is enough for Covent Garden to know it can charge £275 for the best seats, capitalising on the rarity and exclusivity of a performance by the singer.

This is exactly what happened last year when Domingo, appearing in *Die Walküre*, attracted the same range of prices as a special gala evening. It is the aura of a performance by Domingo that attracts premium ticket prices, not the fees he charges, though at around £20,000 a performance, these are considerably higher than the vast majority of singers.

Yesterday Domingo was in London to publicise an appearance with the Royal Opera, not as a singer this time but as conductor, conducting *La Traviata* in Baden Baden in June.

He took the opportunity on the Radio 4 Today programme to say that his return to Covent Garden, when it re-opens next year, would be dependent on cheaper tickets. "I will insist when I come to Covent Garden to sing next time that the prices will be kept as low as possible," he said. The 57-year-old star—who 16 months ago celebrated 25 years of working at the Royal Opera—said: "It isn't my fault. I don't make

£1 more. It's a pity, because the public suffers. The public can't come to the opera because it is too expensive."

In fact Domingo is knocking at an increasingly open door. The new chairman of the Royal Opera House, Sir Colin Southgate, is determined to change its pricing structure. No firm

### IN THE NEWS PLACIDO DOMINGO

**ON HIS WIFE**  
"We spend as much time as we can together. In all the time we've been married there has not been one day that I have not been with Marta, or not called her."

**ON RETIREMENT**  
"I will be 60 in 2001, so perhaps that is an appropriate age to stop. Perhaps 65, I don't know. If I am still in good shape and can

sing another four or five years at 60, I will. But you have to leave the people wanting, wishing for more, not saying, 'My God, is he still singing?' When is he going?"

decision has yet been made, but there should be changes to the structure of last year where most performances ranged from £4 to £110 and from £13.50 to £275 for galas and Domingo or Pavarotti performances.

It is anticipated that a new structure will see the bulk of seats at a middle price of around £50 with a sizeable section of cheap seats at below £10 and £125 plus for the best seats which often go to corporate customers. It is also highly likely that when the re-opening programme is announced, Plácido Domingo will be singing in the first

weeks of the renovated house. There is probably no better loved figure at Covent Garden—even if Pavarotti fans might contest that statement. Domingo's association with Covent Garden has been a more regular one than his great rival's; and his commitment to public access has meant that in the past he has argued hard for big-screen relays of his performances in the Covent Garden piazza.

Domingo has a repertoire of more than 90 roles compared to the two dozen of Pavarotti and gives about 70 operatic performances a year, plus about 12 concerts.

He still sees his voice as something apart from himself. "It is both separate from me and depends on me. It is my instrument but it lives with me and is affected by every little thing I do with my body," he says.

Every night he says a prayer to St Cecilia, the saint of music and St Blaise, the saint of throats. He adds: "I also make sure that on St Blaise saint's day I make a cross with candles around my throat and make a special benediction."

## Organist fired in row over Westminster Abbey cash

By Clare Garrow

WESTMINSTER Abbey's long-serving organist and choir-master was dismissed yesterday after an investigation into the management of money owned by the Abbey's music department. He refutes the allegations and intends to appeal directly to the Queen.

Martin Neary and his wife, Penelope, who was his assistant, were sent letters of dismissal after a meeting attended by the Abbey's Dean, the Very Rev Dr Wesley Carr, the four canons of Westminster and the Receiver-General. Dr Carr said the decision followed investigations which showed the Nearys had set up a company last April to handle choir contracts and appearances without informing the Abbey authorities.

The existence and activities of Neary Music Ltd only came to light when the Abbey auditor made inquiries about income and expenditure relating to choir tours, concerts and recordings.

A statement from Dr Carr said: "Dr and Mrs Neary took advantage of his position... to further their own financial gain, although it was possible the



Carr: Accused of being a 'tin-pot dictator'

process would deprive others (the lay vicars and chorists) of income."

The Nearys "absolutely deny" the charges and claim the existence of the company or that they acted with any lack of honesty. Dr Neary, 58, who has been Abbey organist for the past 10 years and is president of the Royal College of Organists,

was decorated by the Queen for his musical direction at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. He is entitled to - and intends to - appeal to the Queen in her capacity as the Visitor of the Abbey. Being a "royal peculiar", the Abbey does not come under the authority of the Church of England or the Bishop of London. It is understood

any such appeal would be heard on the Queen's behalf by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg. Mrs Neary will be appealing to the canons.

Dr Carr has been criticised for the way he handled the dispute. Frank Field, Minister for Welfare Reform and a former member of the General Synod, has accused him of being a "bully", of setting up a "kangaroo court" and behaving like a "tin-pot dictator".

Dr Carr acknowledged that yesterday's decision was unusual. The last time any appeal was heard on behalf of the Queen following a decision by the Dean and Chapter at the Abbey was in 1949. Then it concerned a constitutional issue.

The inquiry into Neary Music Ltd found Mrs Neary was the sole director and Dr Neary the company secretary. The company was used to handle monies for the Abbey choir's Oslo tour and concerts at the Barbican and National Gallery last year. "The company was found to have paid a dividend of £1,500 to Mrs Neary and to have accumulated surpluses in the bank account for abbey events," read part of the statement from Westminster Abbey.

## Father Ted's funeral provokes Catholic ire

By Alan Murdoch in Dublin

PRIESTS who conducted the funeral services for Dermot Morgan—who played Father Ted in the Channel 4 television series—were last night attacked by a Catholic magazine, which accused the actor of "antipathy towards the Church into which he was baptised".

Morgan died suddenly of a heart attack two months ago after completing the final series of *Father Ted*, the surreal comedy about three errant Irish priests banished to a remote island.

The magazine, *The Pioneer*, preferring "an eye for an eye" to the urging of the Lord's Prayer to forgive those who trespass against us, accused Morgan of "evincing an unmistakable and vociferous intense dislike of the Catholic Church".

It added: "In the light of his life, the farewell should have been more distinctly low key, consistent with the truth of [the Catholic Church's] estimate of him as less than a friend."

The writer of the article, William [Name], said that funeral services were the Church's "commendation of a sinner to the Lord's mercy". But Morgan

himself would hardly have denied sinning.

The magazine, published by the Catholic-leaning Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, complained that Morgan's send-off risked adding to "the moral confusion by which people are increasingly beset".

Father Gallagher helped nurture Morgan's Craggy Island depiction of the priesthood's wilder fringes. Teaching the young comedian at University College Dublin, he lent him his dog-collar so he could terrify newly arrived first year students with an annual "welcome" address in the guise of a de-ranked senior cleric-professor.

Curiously, Morgan had once contemplated entering holy orders. He didn't, and his depiction of the Church would have been even harsher had the merciless Irish radio satire *Scrap Saturday* still been on air when clerical sex scandals began erupting in 1992.

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39. Boost your pension
40. Fridge-freezers
41. Large car safety
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43. Financial aids
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# Europe set to outlaw tobacco advertising

By Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

A BAN on tobacco advertising and sponsorship throughout the European Union was backed overwhelmingly yesterday by a committee of MEPs.

The decision increases the likelihood that the full European Parliament will endorse the ban when it meets in the week beginning 11 May - ushering in the first Europe-wide legislation of its kind.

The ban would mean that all poster advertising for tobacco would disappear within three years, advertising in newspapers and magazines would be phased out within four years and sponsorship deals would go within five years with the exception of world-level sports such as Formula One which would be given eight years.

By 2006, no tobacco advertising would be allowed anywhere in the EU except inside tobaccoist shops and in specialist tobacco magazines.

In the UK, most advertising and sponsorship is expected to disappear by 2000 if the ban is passed. A draft law has been prepared in anticipation of the European legislation.

Yesterday's decision by the European Parliament's environment and consumer affairs committee effectively rebuffed opponents of the proposed new law who argued the ban would infringe the right to freedom of expression.

In London, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health described the decision as "a very significant step forward".

The ban was hammered out by health ministers of the member states last December, but the tobacco companies raised

a series of objections and sought to have the proposals amended in the hope that this would string out the process and cause it to fail. Last week, the European Parliament's legal affairs committee declared the measure illegal.

However, the environment committee, to which the legal affairs committee reports, rejected this interpretation and backed the new law by 37 votes to 6. Although the full parliament will have a chance to amend the measure in May, the size of the margin makes it more likely that it will be passed.

John Carlisle, of the Tobacco Manufacturers Association, said the measure was "ill conceived" and said global experience had shown that an advertising ban would be "totally ineffective" in meeting the EU's health policy aims.

Clive Bates, director of Action on Smoking and Health, described the decision as a milestone, and he added: "We are delighted. This is what we've been pushing for."

"The message we've been sending out is that this directive may not be perfect, but it's far better than anything that has gone before."

"Our big fear was that MEPs friendly to the tobacco industry would propose [wrecking] amendments... I gather 70 amendments were put down, but they were rejected."

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, welcomed the committee's decision. "This is a significant reaffirmation of the widespread support for our proposals for European-wide action to phase out tobacco advertising, with appropriate time made available for sport to find alternative sources of revenue."



Girl power: A female recruit at the Army's training centre at Pirbright, Surrey, yesterday undergoing fitness tests designed to give women a better chance of being accepted. The rigour of tests will also be matched to the jobs youngsters want - be it Paratrooper or electrician Photograph: PA

## 'Hysteria' warning on paedophiles

PUBLIC "hysteria" about the freed child-killer Sidney Cooke is putting children at risk, probation chiefs warned tonight.

Parents in Somerset who had stopped taking their children to school because they feared Cooke was held in a nearby police station "seem to be parting ways with rationality", said Gill Mackenzie, vice-chairman of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation.

"The public reaction is very, very understandable but the way the reaction is going now it's actually getting in the way of the best interests of children."

"Children's anxieties are being unnecessarily raised by keeping kids out of school be-

cause somebody is in police custody." On BBC2's *Newsnight* parents said they were keeping children away from school because they were worried about Cooke.

He is believed to be in either Yeovil or Bridgnorth police station, and protesters have staged demonstrations outside both. "The public will say he could walk out at any time, but I can't imagine he would and if he did the police would respond appropriately," said Ms Mackenzie, chief probation officer for Gloucestershire.

"I'm worried about the effect on children - I'm worried about the effect from paedophiles but I'm also worried

about this contrary backlash on them and all the constant anxiety that's been generated."

Ms Mackenzie added: "Public concern about protecting their children is wholly legitimate and I would like there to be more sensible discussion in the media about how parents can sensibly protect their children. But some pockets seem to be parting ways with rationality and whipping themselves up into hysteria, which can't be good for children, and can't be good for close supervision of sex offenders. There seems to be a desire in many sex offenders to run away and go underground."

She said the answer to public concern lay in continued very close supervision of the very few dangerous sex offenders released from prison. "There's tagging, there are TV cameras, there's both human and mechanical paraphernalia."

Under last year's Sex Offenders Act paedophiles have to register with police and if they disappear, the public can be warned, Ms Mackenzie said.

She also warned about cases of mistaken identity where vigilantes had attacked elderly men in the belief they were Cooke. A recent incident in Manchester involving an old man who moved on to a housing estate caused particular concern, she said.

Cooke, 71, was released from prison on April 6 after serving nine years of a 16-year sentence for the manslaughter of teenage runaway Jason Swift.

After spending 11 days in a London police station he was transferred to Avon and Somerset police after asking to move to Bristol. The police have confirmed they are holding him while a permanent home is found for him.

Police and probation officials met yesterday in Bristol to try to decide what to do with him but no statement was expected on his future. Though technically free, he has agreed to be supervised by the probation service and to be electronically tagged.

Cooke, 71, was released

## Jab set to spare animals the cut

By Andrew Yates

DOG and cat lovers who shudder at the thought of having to take their four-legged companions to the vet to have them neutered may not have to worry much longer. A new vaccine is being developed which will allow cats and dogs to be sterilised using a simple injection without the need for an operation. Not only could the injection be used to neuter both female and male animals but it would be reversible.

The vaccine works by lowering levels of testosterone, and the potential market for the treatment is huge. Last year, 15 million domestic animals were neutered in the US alone.

The treatment is initially being developed for cats and dogs, but could eventually be used to sterilise a whole host of farmyard animals. It would be particularly useful for racehorse owners who could reverse the castration of their best animals so that they could sire new thoroughbreds after being put out to grass.

The new castration injection is going through clinical trials and could be on sale within a few years.

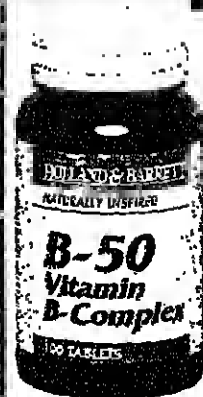
The technology used to create the vaccine is also being used to lower testosterone in humans, a procedure which can help treat prostate cancer victims. It could eventually be used to sterilise humans, although it is not currently being tested for that purpose.

Proteus, a British biotechnology group, discovered the new animal vaccine which is now being developed by a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, the US healthcare giant.

Proteus announced yesterday that it had raised £7.6m from City financial institutions to develop further products based on the same process.

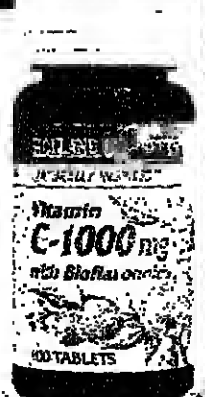
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## Depression campaign saddens therapists

By Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

THE launch of a three-year campaign to improve the treatment of depression caused unhappiness yesterday when psychotherapy organisations discovered they had been left out.

The National Depression Campaign - backed by 11 mental health organisations including the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Mental Health Foundation - aims to highlight the personal, social and financial burden imposed by the illness which is estimated to affect one in ten people.

But the British Association of Psychotherapists said the campaign was skewed towards drug treatment and the failure to include psychotherapists indicated antagonism to talking cures.

The National Depression Campaign follows a similar campaign run by the Royal College of Psychiatrists from 1992-97 which saw the acceptance of anti-depressant drugs as a beneficial treatment rise threefold to 45 per cent. Dr

David Baldwin, senior lecturer in psychiatry at the University of Southampton and chief spokesman for the new campaign, said: "For those who have a depressive illness, anti-depressants are usually essential before the person can become well enough to benefit fully from talking treatments."

Judy Cooper, of the British Association of Psychotherapists, said this would only apply in cases of extreme depression. "In ordinary depression it is not true at all. I have had a lot of patients who were taking drugs who knew they were not the real solution." She said it was "a shame" that psychotherapy organisations had been omitted because it sent the wrong signal. "Psychotherapists have little training in psychotherapy and to a large degree discredit it."

Dr Baldwin said: "We would not accept that exploratory psychodynamic therapy was helpful in depression and by adopting that stance we do distance ourselves from the therapy organisations."

## Circus owner charged

THE circus owner, Mary Chipperfield, 60 has been charged with 15 offences of cruelty to animals. She has been bailed to appear at Basingstoke magistrates' court on 21 May to face charges brought under the Protection of Animals Act 1911. Ms Chipperfield runs Chipperfields Circus, whose headquarters is at Croft Farm, Over Wallop, Hampshire. A Hampshire police spokesman said that during investigations officers had removed a number of animals from her care.

## Farmer's baa baa code

A FARMER facing bankruptcy because of sheep rustlers has launched what he hopes will be a fightback using hi-tech microchips and satellite tracking systems. Simon Bland, 33, who farms 120 acres of fell land near Penrith in Cumbria from where he has lost more than £50,000 of stock in five years, and his fiancée, Dr Jane Barker, are developing chips which can be attached to sheep, so if stolen the animals can be traced.

## Crackdown on bootleggers

THE Government announced a crackdown on cross-Channel smuggling yesterday, unveiling measures to stem the flood of bootleg drink and cigarettes into the country. Persistent offenders could lose their vehicles and face hefty new fines. The measures are the first wave of a new blitz on cross-Channel contraband said to cost the Treasury nearly £1bn a year.

## Post-mortem on baby

A POST-MORTEM examination on six-month-old Caroline Jenson, whose Australian nanny is in custody accused of harming her, has failed to determine the cause of death, Scotland Yard said yesterday. Further tests will now be carried out.

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## Family left confused over E.coli death

A FAMILY learnt from a television news item that their grandmother had died from E.coli 0157 food poisoning hours after being told she was not suffering from the infection, an inquiry was told yesterday.

And five months after Mary Smith's death, an appointment card was delivered asking her to attend Monklands hospital in Lanarkshire for an E.coli check-up. Her grand-daughter, Sharon McKellar, told the inquiry in Motherwell that she was "livid" at the later blunder.

She was giving evidence on the third day of the inquiry into the world's worst outbreak of E.coli 0157 food poisoning, in which up to 21 elderly people died in Lanarkshire and central Scotland in late 1996 and 1997.

Mrs Smith, of Motherwell, died in Monklands hospital, on 28 December 1996. She had fallen

ill a month earlier after eating meat from a Scotmid store. Her granddaughter told the inquiry that on the day the elderly woman was dying, a doctor sat with her for an hour and told her no E.coli had been found in tests.

"We left the hospital three hours later only to see on the TV news that she had died from E.coli," she said. "We were very distressed and I started phoning round to see who had released the statement to the press."

She contacted the Scottish Office, Lanarkshire Health Board, Monklands hospital, and police but got no answer.

"Whoever put out that statement also saw fit to include that my grandfather had also died 10 days earlier because that was also on the news," she told the inquiry.

"There was a lot of misin-

formation floating about, because the TV showed John Barr's shop in Wishaw, but the meat my granny ate was bought at Scotmid. It was not fair to John Barr."

She said that days later she received an apology from Dr Syed Ahmed, head of public health for Lanarkshire, who visited. He told the family that the latest test results had come from a laboratory in Aberdeen and were in an office at the time staff, unaware of this, were speaking to the family.

"Throughout, there was a total lack of information to relatives," she told the inquiry. "There were plenty of press officers - but no relatives' officers."

The appointment card for her grandmother arrived on 3 May, asking the dead woman to attend five days later.

"I could not believe she was being asked to go for a check-up in the same ward she died in," Mrs McKellar said.

She sought explanations but got none, and only got an apology after she threatened to go to the press. "By the time May 8 came, I was livid that no one had come to me with an apology," she said. But that night three letters of apology were delivered to her home from the hospital chief executive, a ward sister and a doctor.

Mrs McKellar, who said she believed E.coli also played a part in her grandfather's death, said lessons should be learnt.

"My grandparents were perfectly healthy before this happened and they were not ready to die, not by any manner of means, no matter what age they were."

The inquiry continues.



First-class performer: Ernie Wise in London yesterday launching the Royal Mail's new 26p stamp which features his late partner, Eric Morecambe. The 'comedians' series has been designed by Gerald Scarfe. Photograph: Philip Meech

## Bugs threaten antibiotics

By Charles Arthur  
Science and Technology Editor

ANTIBIOTICS are being over-used to an extent that undermines their ability to cure killer diseases, and poses a major threat to public health, a Parliamentary inquiry warned yesterday.

Separately, British scientists at the Soil Association in Bristol warned that stringent controls are needed to prevent the routine use of antibiotics in farm animals, because "antibiotic resistance is developing in... [the] animals and passing to the human population".

The reports reflect growing alarm in this country and abroad at the emergence of strains of bacteria that cannot be destroyed by antibiotics. Fears were fuelled last year by the discovery of bugs in Japan and the United States resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin, which is normally the last line of defence against infection. The bug was an unusual strain of the MRSA bacterium (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus), a common cause of hospital infections in Britain.

Lord Soulsby, chair of the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, said: "Misuse and over-use of an-

tibiotics are now threatening to undo all their early promises and success in curing disease."

The inquiry had been "an alarming experience", said Lord Soulsby, adding that "the greatest threat is complacency". He said urgent action was needed to avert "the dire prospect of revisiting the pre-antibiotic era".

The committee urged a rethink on cuts facing the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS).

At an international conference organised by the PHLS in London last October, Professor Brian Duerden, its deputy director, said vancomycin-resistant enterococci had emerged in some hospitals in London that were "almost untreatable".

The Lords called for better education of doctors to persuade patients not to demand unnecessary prescriptions of antibiotics, and also to complete courses of drugs when given them.

Patrick Holden, director of the Soil Association, pointed out that the UK was the only EU member to oppose a ban last year on a growth-promoting antibiotic for animals called Avoparcin.

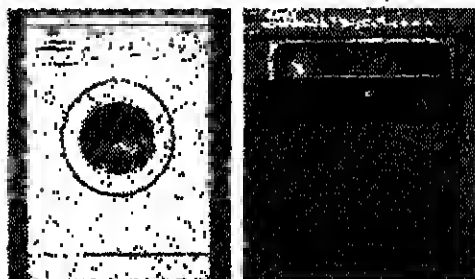
Richard Young, who wrote a report titled *Inadequacies in the Regulation of Farm Antibiotics*, said: "We are on the brink of being unable to treat a range of life-threatening diseases."

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# Scots case may bring pressure on Condon

By Kathy Marks

IAN Oliver, the Grampian Police chief constable, was still sitting tight in his office yesterday, apparently impervious to demands for his resignation. One can only hope that Sir Paul Condon, his counterpart in London, is equally thick-skinned.

For if the buck stops at the top in Aberdeen, as Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has so memorably declared, it may equally be presumed to do so in London, where the Metropolitan Police stands accused of incompetence over the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

In Mr Oliver's case, a damning report on his force's handling of the investigation into

**'Dewar's actions reveal a new willingness by politicians to criticise police'**

the murder of schoolboy Scott Simpson by Steven Leisk, a known paedophile, prompted Mr Dewar to call on him to "pack his bags".

Sir Paul can expect a scathing indictment of the Met when the inquiry into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence publishes its report later this year. The inquiry, which is in its fourth week, has heard a devastating litany of allegations against investigating officers.

It remains to be seen whether Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will call on Sir Paul to fall on his sword. There are major differences between the two cases. But what seems certain, after events this week in Grampian, is that highest ranking police officers are no longer regarded as untouchable.

Historically, chief constables have not been held accountable for the conduct of their officers, unless they were directly involved. Nor are they

wont, following critical reports to proffer their resignation as a symbolic gesture.

In that sense, the treatment of Mr Oliver may mark a turning point. For it ministers are prepared to throw the book at chief constables, the latter may find it preferable to go quietly.

As Sir Paul reads the report on the Leisk investigation, he will hear unmistakable echoes of the allegations levelled against his own officers at the Lawrence inquiry. Its conclusions of incompetence, neglect of duty and lost opportunities, for instance - all charges made against south London police by Edmund Lawson, QC, counsel to the inquiry.

The report says that Grampian police had all the information they needed to solve the mystery of Scott's disappearance within a few hours, but that they ignored it. At the Lawrence inquiry, officers have admitted that they received so many tip-offs that they could have made arrests within 24 hours - instead of which they waited a fortnight.

The list of uncanny similarities goes on. But there are also singular aspects to the Grampian case which mean that, as far as its reverberations for chief constables go, it may remain a one-off. There are exacerbating factors, such as Mr Oliver's arrogance in the face of criticism.

More importantly, his force is tiny compared with the Met and Dr Oliver might reasonably be deemed to have direct managerial responsibility.

Mike Bennett, for example, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, believes not unsurprisingly, that chief constables should bear more of the blame for the failures of their subordinates.

What Mr Dewar's robust reaction does reveal is a new willingness on the part of politicians to criticise the police. There was a time when they were reluctant to do so because of public esteem for the service.

But nowadays people are far more cynical about the police, so there less votes to be lost in putting the boot in.

Crimes and punishment, page 16



Pictures in words: Selina Woodruff displaying the four-million word dictionary at Colnaghi's in London yesterday Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

## Dictionary is a work of art at £10,000

IT WAS fitting that the newest dictionary of art was on view yesterday in an Old Bond Street gallery next to a Canaletto painting. For the book comes with a price tag once associated with the wilder dreams of the art market, writes David Lister.

Purchasing the leather-bound *Dictionary of Art* with marble endpapers and gilt edges will set you back £10,000. The limited edition of 250 copies comes in 34 volumes and took 15 years to put together.

Surprisingly, most of the images in the dictionary are in black and white. Katharine Douglas, who was handling the publicity for the publishers Macmillan, explained: "If we had put more colour in, the book could have become prohibitively expensive." It is a moot point how much in excess of £10,000 a book has to be to count as prohibitively expensive.

On show at Colnaghi's yesterday, the dictionary had already clocked up one sale. The gallery owners bought a full set for their library. "It's an excellent book that we will definitely use," said Selina Woodruff, a staff member. Now they will just have to sell a painting to pay for it.



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# Blair pledge on prisoner release

By Colin Brown  
and Alan Murdoch

TONY BLAIR gave an assurance to MPs in the Commons that terrorist prisoners will not be given early release under the Northern Ireland peace deal if they are still a threat to society.

As MPs and TDs in London and Dublin gave their backing to referendums on the Good Friday settlement, Mr Blair sought to reassure the Ulster Unionists about the deal he brokered in Northern Ireland.

But the late-night Commons session on legislation setting up a Northern Ireland assembly exposed the splits in David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party over the deal.

Mr Trimble and his deputy, John Taylor, were attacked by Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, for being absent as Mr Trimble's Unionist MPs attacked the deal.

President Bill Clinton is expected to forestall his visit to Ulster until after the 22 May referendums on both sides of

the border to avoid upsetting Unionist voters, the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern gave a clear hint yesterday. Mr Ahern who is due to have consultations with Jim Steinberg, deputy US security adviser, in Dublin next week about the prospects for a presidential trip, confirmed the visit was still on the cards.

"The issue is not so much in our jurisdiction, but that it might create disharmony in Northern Ireland. The balance was that the visit might be just after the referendum debate and before they go into a campaign for the new Northern Ireland Assembly," he said.

The release of prisoners remains a difficult issue for Dublin and the British government. Mr Blair told the Commons that prisoners who were "a threat or attached to organisations that are carrying on violence" would not be eligible for early release, and those who were released would be on licence so they could be returned to prison, if they broke the peace agreement.

The Prime Minister also reinforced the assurances given in a recent letter to Mr Trimble that ministers in the new Northern Ireland assembly would be debarred from holding office in Ulster if their parties were involved in renewed violence or had refused to take part in substantial decommissioning over the next two years. But he refused to write that assurance into the legislation which MPs were asked to rush through the Commons last night to allow the elections to the Assembly to take place.

In the Dail, the issue marked the only serious difference between the six main Dail parties during the two-day debate.

The Justice Minister, John O'Donoghue, said the Government's "view" was that those charged with the murder of Garda Jerry McCabe in Adare, Limerick in 1996 would not come within the ambit of the agreement's release provisions. But the Labour leader, Ruairi Quinn, warned against operating a different policy on prisoners on either side of the border.



Ethical cuppa: Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, sipping tea at the House of Commons launch yesterday of the 'soundly sourced' Co-Op 99 Tea. Leading article, page 18  
Photograph: Rul Xavier

## Warning on Mid East stalemate

By Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

THE Prime Minister, dubbed "the angel of peace" by a German newspaper, commented this week, yesterday told the Commons that continuing stalemate in the Middle East posed a threat to "the stability of the entire world."

The warmth of European reaction to Tony Blair's mission extended to the French Foreign Ministry, which suggested he might have delivered the kiss of life to the peace process.

In the Commons, Labour MPs praised his efforts. Answering a question from Linda Perham, MP for Ilford North, Mr Blair told the House he welcomed the plans by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, to come to London for meetings on 4 May with Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State.

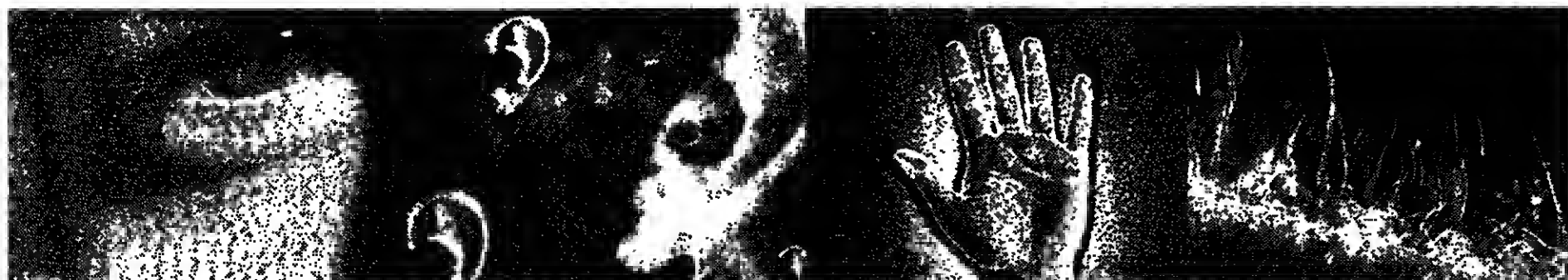
"I plan to meet both as well," he said. "We will play any role we can that it is helpful for us to play, though I stress again that we should not cut across anything being done by the US. But I believe if there is goodwill on both sides, then progress can be made." However, Mr Blair warned: "If progress is not made, then this dispute will carry on threatening not just the stability of the Middle East but the stability of the entire world."

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## Oxfam reveals UK's £660m arms trade

By Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

A SECRET £660m British trade in guns and other small arms is prolonging the misery of war in dozens of developing countries, a leading charity claims in a report out today.

Despite assurances that only a handful of United Kingdom companies make small arms and ammunition, Oxfam publishes a list of 120. The charity says it is "business as usual" for the arms business under Robin Cook's new rules. It also claims that China is more open about the arms it exports than Britain.

The report traces how small guns and ammunition made in the UK go to more than 100 countries, many of them desperately poor. The UK trade in small arms such as handguns, pistols, shotguns, rifles and rocket launchers amounts to around £660m a year, it says. While the catalogue from the Defence Export Services Organisation at the Ministry of Defence lists just eight UK companies involved in small arms manufacture and supply and one making ammunition, Oxfam has a list of 120.

"It is difficult to imagine any other British industry which could cause death and injury on a large scale and remain not merely unaccountable but receive large sums of taxpayers' money in export credit guarantees," says the report, "Small Arms, Wrong Hands".

The charity says that although commentators have tended to focus on major arms deals, the post-Cold War world has fallen prey to "a bewildering array of separatist and counter-insurgency wars, border disputes, ethnic and religious violence" and other "low-intensity conflicts". Of 27 countries in Africa to which the UK has supplied light weapons, 71 per cent are suffering armed conflict.

Oxfam welcomed Britain's recent commitment to cut links between aid and the arms trade. The Government has also promised that state support for exports to highly indebted countries will only be given to "productive" products for the next two years. However, the secrecy still surrounding arms exports is unacceptable, it says.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said the Government had argued vigorously within the European Union and in a forum of arms-trading countries for greater controls. Under Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy there would be an annual report on arms exports. "This is actually an area where we believe our record is a good one. In particular, the export controls we have in place constitute one of the toughest regimes in existence," he said.

Small Arms, Wrong Hands: Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford, 01865 313600; Oxfam website, www.oxfam.org.uk.

## Tory chairman sees end of the big givers

FOREIGN donations to the Conservatives have dried up since the election, the party chairman, Cecil Parkinson, told the Neill inquiry into political funding yesterday, writes Fran Abrams.

Corporate donations were in terminal decline, rich benefactors were being put off by the threat of having their names published and membership was only just beginning to pick up after the election defeat, he said.

The party's overdraft is believed to be between £1.5m and £2m, and more than 50 staff have been made redundant or have left without being replaced.

Asked if his party treasurer was worried about the party finances as a result of the decline in large donations, Lord Parkinson replied: "Congratulations, that is a very good analysis."

"We have been around for a long time and we intend to stay around for a long time. But it is very, very difficult."

Foreign donations were a vexed question, because it was hard to decide who should



Parkinson: 'It is very difficult'

count as foreign, he said. "Fortunately, since I have been chairman - or unfortunately - we haven't had to face the problem. Since the last election we have had no donors about whom we have even had to wonder whether they could be classified as foreign," he said.

"We think the more prescriptive you are the more incentive there is for people to try to find ways around it. We think the days of huge sums being available to political parties to spend to try to buy elections are probably over."





# New Forest set to become a National Park

By Michael McCarthy  
Environment Correspondent

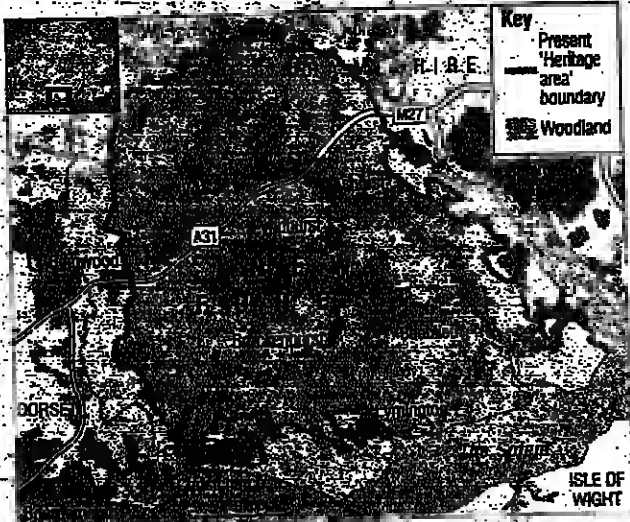
THE New Forest should at last be given National Park status, officials of the Countryside Commission, the Government's landscape advisory body, will recommend today.

If accepted by ministers, their advice will end a decade-long wrangle over the precise legal position of the 200-square-mile mixture of ancient woodlands, pasture and open heaths, which is the last uncultivated wilderness of southern England.

Squeezed between Southampton and its oil refineries on the one side, and Bournemouth and its expanding conurbation on the other, the forest, in places virtually unchanged since mediaeval times, is subject to increasing tourism and development pressures. Yet two attempts have failed in the past 10 years to give it National Park status, and the prestige, funding and strong planning powers that go with that status.

The first attempt was headed off inside Whitehall in 1990 by an alliance between the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Forestry Commission, reluctant to give up administrative control over the 67,000 acres of Crown Estate woodland at the heart of the forest.

Then, in 1992, the Conservative government made a specific promise of National Park status for the forest, but failed



to implement it. Instead, the forest is at present labelled a "Heritage Area" - a unique, ad hoc definition that has no statutory force, but allows the forest to have a working boundary, and a committee of local authorities and other interested parties to look after it.

The New Forest Committee is pressing for proper legal protection for the area, and the Countryside Commission feels strongly that it should formally be brought into the national parks "family", although this will require a special arrangement for the 500 commoners, the local people who hold ancient grazing and forestry rights and still turn out their ponies, cattle, sheep and pigs to graze freely through the woodlands. The semi-wild ponies are one

of the area's most distinctive sights. The commoners are represented by the ancient Court of Verderers and this body too would be likely to remain and would need to be incorporated into any new arrangements.

But the benefits of National Park status are undeniable, says the Council for National Parks (CNP), the independent watchdog body representing National Park users' interests.

"It would ensure long-term protection of the area, national recognition for its unique landscape and wildlife, and a well-resourced body to care for the New Forest into the next millennium," said Angus Lunn, the CNP chairman.

The Forestry Commission was more equivocal yesterday.

"National Park status would formalise the New Forest Heritage Area and provide greater planning powers and more protection, but it is too early to suggest what the effects would be," a spokesman said.

Officials of the Countryside Commission will recommend National Park equivalent status to their nine commissioners at their meeting in Leeds today.

By contrast, as reported in *The Independent* on Monday, they will recommend that such status be denied the South Downs.

The New Forest was established in 1079 by William the Conqueror as his personal hunting preserve and has remained largely unchanged because the soil is poor and so has never been tilled. Its diverse mixture of habitats provide a stunning mix of wildlife, from red and fallow deer to rare birds such as the honey buzzard and unusual flowers, such as the wild gladiolus.

The area has been most notably celebrated in recent years by the photographer and filmmaker Eric Ashby with his groundbreaking 1961 television documentary *The Unknown Forest*, and his book *The Secret Life of the New Forest*, published in 1989, both of which offered remarkable wildlife portraits, particularly of badgers and foxes. Now 80, Ashby still lives at Badger's Cottage in the north-west of the forest.



Country idyll: Ponies grazing in a scene from Eric Ashby's *The Secret Life of the New Forest* (1989) Photograph: Eric Ashby

## Acid rain blamed for thin state of thrush egg shells

By Charles Arthur  
Science and Technology Editor



The thrush: Thinning shells could threaten its survival

ACID rain has made the shells of eggs laid by thrushes in Britain progressively thinner over the past 150 years, a new survey suggests. The effect might make it harder for the eggs to hatch, ornithologists fear.

Research by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in Edinburgh examined eggs from four species of thrushes found in large numbers in the country - the

blackbird, song thrush, mistle thrush and ring ouzel. Rhys Green of the RSPB carried out a survey by comparing the thickness of shells laid now with those from museum collections, some dating back to 1850.

"We wanted to see if there were long-term trends that might be related to environmental pollution," he told *New Scientist* magazine.

The results were clear-cut for most of the species, with a steady decline in the thickness of eggshells

of between 2 and 11 per cent in the period from 1850 to the present day.

Intriguingly, the thickness of blackbird shells follows a sloping curve: it stayed steady between 1850 and 1900, then fell abruptly in the years to 1960, but is now slowly rising - in contrast to the steady decline in shell thickness of birds such as the ring ouzel, which breed on moorland. Thinner shells could affect the birds' survival, though Mr Green says that further research is required to determine this.

The cause is also not clear-cut - but seems most likely to be linked to acid rain rather than pesticides or pollutants, because it predates the wide agricultural use of chemicals such as DDT. By contrast, industrial systems earlier this century loaded the atmosphere with sulphur dioxide from the coal burnt in houses and factories. Elsewhere, eggs laid by great tits living in areas with very acid soils have thinner shells than normal.

Acid rain would reduce the

alkaline calcium content of leaf litter eaten by worms, and the soil population - and both are a key part of birds' diets.

It could also suggest the reason why blackbird shells are now growing thicker, after decades when they thinned. "It is tempting to relate this to the clean air legislation of the 1950s," said Mr Green. That banned the burning of anything except smokeless fuel in urban areas, and reduced smog levels dramatically. Pesticides such as DDT - wide-

ly used in British agriculture from 1947 - have previously been found to cause thinning of shells in birds of prey, which absorbed the chemical through animals they captured. But the thinning of thrush eggshells predates that extensively. Mr Green is confident that the survey is reliable, because the collection sites are well documented; and thus the recorded changes derive from external phenomena, rather than from variability had the samples been taken piecemeal.

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# Why gifted children may not always get the glittering prizes

By Judith Judd  
Education Editor

GIFTED children are not destined for glittering careers, according to a far-reaching study published today.

Research from the Office for Standards in Education shows that those who shine at school in IQ tests and exams often fail to fulfil their potential.

The review of current evidence on very able children cites, for example, a study of 11 "world-changers" by Howard Gardner, professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the United States. He found that of those studied, even by the age of 20, only Pablo Picasso's world status was apparent. Others in the review included the composer Igor Fyodorovich Stravinsky; Martha Graham, the American dancer and choreographer; Sigmund Freud and Mahatma Gandhi.

Famous visual thinkers such as Einstein, Edison and Churchill all did badly at school. The key to success, the findings suggest, lies more in dedication, motivation, hard work and support from the family than in IQ scores or school achievement.

Professor Joan Freeman, a visiting professor at Middlesex University and the author of the report, quotes a study in San Francisco which has traced 856 boys and 672 girls - "geniuses" from 1925 to the present day.

All had IQ scores of at least 135, putting them in the top 2 per cent of the population, but their latest review shows that they have not been noticeably more successful as adults than if they had been randomly selected from others of the same social background.

Even children who receive



Latent genius: (left to right) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Albert Einstein (who did badly at school), artist Pablo Picasso and Sigmund Freud, the originator of psychoanalysis

education geared to high-ability pupils do not stand out from their peers as adults. A study of more than 200 former pupils of the Hunter School for the Gifted in New York (mean IQ 157) found that, by middle-age, all had failed to reach the top of their chosen professions.

Professor Freeman said that there were obvious examples of child prodigies who achieved fame, such as Mozart. "But they are extremely few and far between, William Hague could be said to be one. Personality, motivation and the opportunity

to use your talents are very important."

Her report takes issue with the Government's policy of support for accelerating bright children by a year or more. "The overall conclusion from research is that acceleration can work, particularly for mathematics and second languages, but with very strong caveats."

Even the academic advantages of acceleration are in doubt, it says. Professor Freeman's own research suggests that the normal problems of growing up may be exaggerated

with acceleration, for example, with the issue of staying out late like older classmates.

She said: "It is a crude and cheap method of dealing with the gifted." They would be much better served by well-planned enrichment activities after school and at weekends: journalism courses for talented writers or computer courses for future programmers.

The report warns against labelling children as "gifted". Research in Britain compared a group of children identified by their parents as gifted with a

second group of equal ability who were unlabelled and a third randomly selected group.

Ten years later, when the groups were again interviewed, the young people who had been labelled gifted had often remained the least happy.

"Labelling appeared to have had the effect of putting pressure on children to live up to it in high achievements, notably in the case of those who had been wrongly labelled and could not fulfil their parents' ambitions."

Joan Freeman, Education+

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seeing alternative solutions. Preference for complexity - they make their games more complicated.  
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## Maggots used in place of surgeons

By Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

SOMETIMES it is the old methods that prove the best. In people suffering from a nasty complication of diabetes known as "necrotic toe", doctors have turned to the maggot.

As nature's alternative to modern surgery, the maggot is an effective means of removing dead tissue. Researchers have found that they can be used to amputate diseased toes cleanly, painlessly and with less risk than a swipe of the scalpel.

In a study in *The Diabetic Foot*, a medical journal, Dr Gerry Rayman and colleagues at Ipswich Hospital, Suffolk, describe how they have used the larvae - maggots - of the greenbottle fly to excise the gangrenous toes of diabetes sufferers.

Poor circulation causes ulcers in the feet of people with diabetes which can be hard to heal and may turn gangrenous. The complication may threaten the limbs and the lives of patients but surgery can be risky.

Dr Rayman says maggots are an effective and safe alternative. "It is readily accepted by the majority of patients and has the benefit of abolishing the offensive odour associated with infection and necrosis."

The procedure involves the insertion of about a dozen maggots into the wound - depending on its size - which are then sealed in place with a dressing. Every three days they are cleaned out and new ones introduced. They produce a powerful cocktail of enzymes which break down the dead tissue and the amputation is usually complete within six weeks.

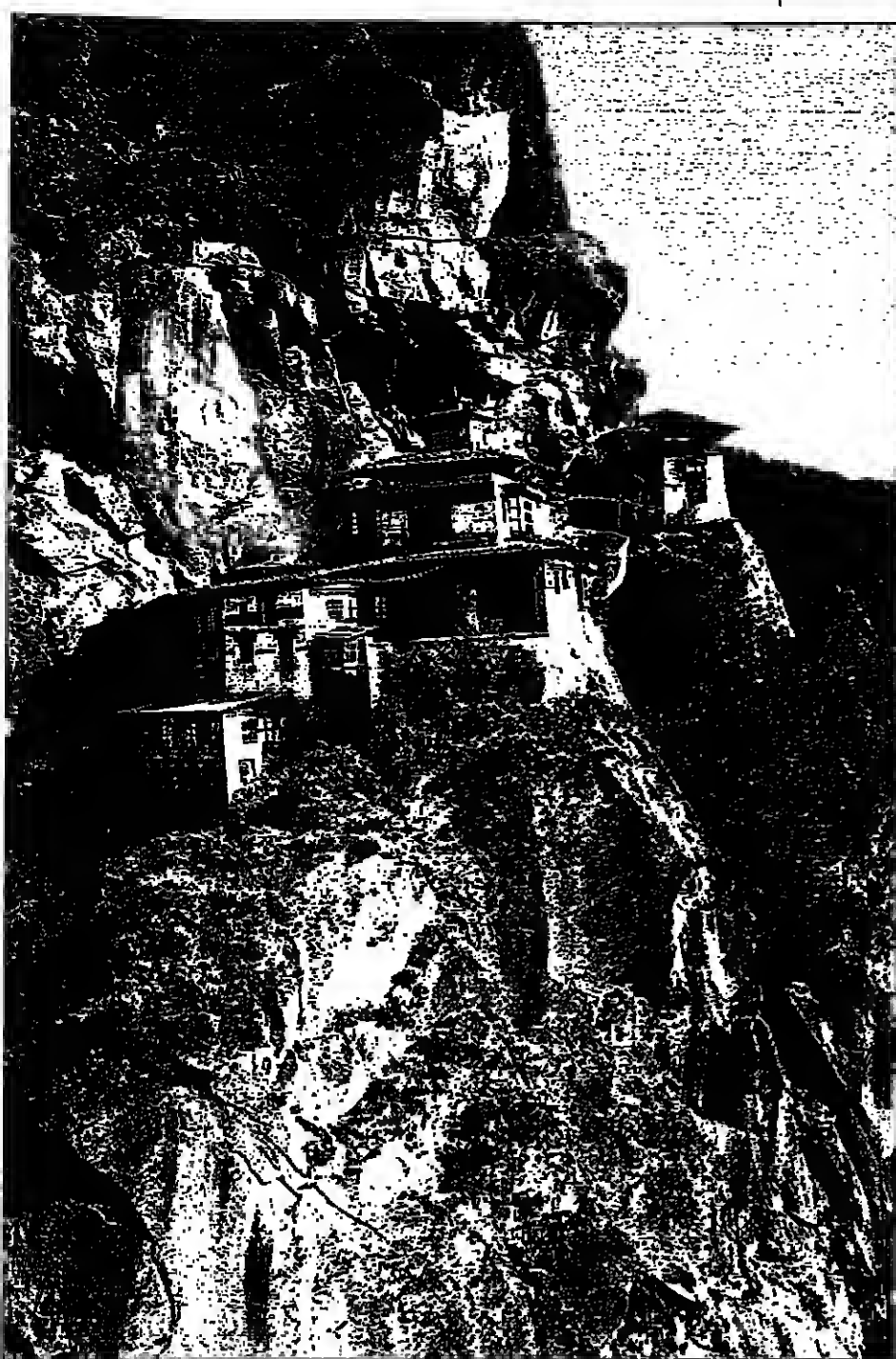
The research team said convincing patients of the benefits of the treatment had not been difficult, once their initial revulsion had been overcome.

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Sacred spot: The eighth-century temple of Taksang, 25 miles from the Bhutan capital, Thimphu, which was destroyed by fire on Sunday night. Photograph: Sherwin Castro/AP

## Fire destroys 'Tiger's Lair' shrine revered by Bhutan's Buddhists

By Peter Popham  
In New Delhi

FIRE has destroyed one of the most famous and highly venerated temples in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

The temple of Taksang, "Tiger's Lair", clung to a sheer rock face 3,000ft above the valley floor in the west of the country. Tiny and precariously poised, it was the most famous image of Bhutan internationally; in the Bhutanese it was revered as the spot on which the nation's founding saint, the monk Padma Sambhava, defeated the demons which stood in the way of the spread of Buddhism. But on Sunday evening it burnt to the ground.

Pious Bhutanese were quick

to declare that the disaster was a terrible omen for the nation's future. A rumour reaching Kathmandu in nearby Nepal said that the fire had been started by lightning. But the temple's structure was ancient, dried-out timber and it was lit by oil lamps, so there was a simpler and more humdrum explanation. On Tuesday, the smouldering ruins were still too hot to approach. The only person living in the temple, a caretaker, was missing.

Taksang was perched high above Paro, Bhutan's most beautiful valley and the crossroads of its two most important trade routes to Tibet. According to legend, Padma Sambhava flew to this ledge high above the valley on the back of a tiger

— hence the temple's name. After meditating for three months in the cave in the rock face which became the temple's sanctum sanctorum, he defeated the demons and established the rule of Buddhism in Bhutan. This is supposed to have occurred in the eighth century, but the temple has been rebuilt several times.

The temple, a strenuous three-hour climb from the road that threads through the valley, contained ancient paintings and images, including one statue, which guarded the meditation cave deep within the temple, of Padma Sambhava grinning triumphantly, commonly interpreted as an avatar of his wife. How many of these treasures, have survived is so far unknown.

## Rome floats a fund to trade on its past

Italy's capital is drawing up a list of historic state-owned properties to privatise

By Anne Hanley  
In Rome

IT MAY BE some time before the "for sale" signs go up outside the Colosseum, but a recent law makes such a sale a possibility. Later this year, selected state-owned properties in Rome will be placed in special real estate funds, shares in which will be sold to the private sector. "We may start with a fund for Rome's Foro Italico sports complex," said Giacomo Vacaggio who heads the committee which is currently drafting the list of properties to be sold. "But then we could do the same thing for the Uffizi Gallery or the Roman Forum." Or, as Mr Vacaggio joked, why not the Colosseum? "We could hand it over to the Americans to run," he said.

The idea is not new. In a famous film of 1962, Italy's best-loved comic, Totò, tried to "sell" the Trevi Fountain to a hapless, gullible American tourist. Any attempts by Mr Vacaggio and his team to do the same thing with the Colosseum, however, would be bound to unleash a storm of protest. Indeed, even his joking about it set alarm bells ringing.

"We wouldn't even think of it," said culture minister Walter Veltroni, who in general has no qualms about giving the private sector an active role in heritage. In 1996, he signed a deal with industrialists involving them directly in the restoration and maintenance of Italy's



Tourist magnet: Bringing in 1.7bn lira a month from admission fees, Rome's amphitheatre is a major money-spinner

museums and archeological sites by exchanging picture rights for sponsorship cash.

"We are talking about one of the world's most important historic monuments," he said, clearly miffed by Mr Vacaggio's levity. "It would be like selling the pyramids to an oil company."

In fact, it would be more like selling nft a gushing oil well; since last autumn, when Rome started charging visitors to enter the Colosseum, the amphitheatre has brought in 1.7bn lira (£0.6m) a month. Few other state assets can claim to be such money-spinners. Innumerable barracks, historic

buildings and warehouses are more of a liability than a boon, generating on average and costing the state dear in upkeep.

It is these that the potential investor will find on offer when Mr Vacaggio and his team complete their list in June. By that time, anything up to 1,000 properties will have been selected. An initial short list contains just under 300.

Best-known of these is the Foro Italico, the mosaic- and statue-packed fascist-era sports centre on the banks of the Tiber in northern Rome, where

swimming pools, tennis courts and running tracks lie idle except for brief bursts of activity during occasional top-level sports meetings. And except, of course, for the weekend bustle around the 80,000-seat Stadio Olimpico which is home to the capital's first division Roma and Lazio football teams.

Mr Vacaggio's committee has valued the Foro at around one trillion lire. Investors underwriting the fund, he explained, will be offered discounted concessions for use of the complex. And everyone—state, investors and general public—will benefit from the more efficiently and profitably run facilities.

So could the Colosseum not become even more of a gold mine with the same treatment?

At the culture ministry, a spokeswoman was prepared to admit that selling the amphitheatre was "theoretically" possible but, she added, "the sale would need our permission and we wouldn't give it".

"Who knows what private enterprise might do there to pull in even greater crowds," she wondered. "Strip-tease performances every evening?"

Alternatively, of course, an entrepreneur with a taste for the gory side of ancient Rome might fix up those crumbling seats, replace the floor and bring back the wild beasts. Once again Flavian's amphitheatre might echo to the roars and screams of lions and gladiators.

## Harassment case delayed

JUDGMENT was deferred in a case with implications for the definition of sexual harassment in the US and also Paula Jones's suit against President Clinton. Kimberly Ellerth says she was harassed and threatened by her boss, Theodore Slowik. The firm says that because she suffered no demonstrable detriment—she was promoted but subsequently resigned—there is no liability. Ms Ellerth says she quit because of her ordeal.

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

## Serial killer

TESTS on sperm found on trains on the Italian Riviera where two women died indicate the same man killed them both. It is suspected he may also have murdered six other women earlier this year.

— AP, Rome

## Rebel caught

A COMMANDER of the Peruvian Shining Path rebels, Pedro Quinteros, was captured while eating at a restaurant in a Lima shantytown.

— AP, Lima

## Editor dies

CHARLES CHIKEREMA, the militant Communist editor of the *Herald*, Zimbabwe's main state newspaper, collapsed and died two months after President Mugabe put him into the job to replace an editor he blamed for inciting dissent.

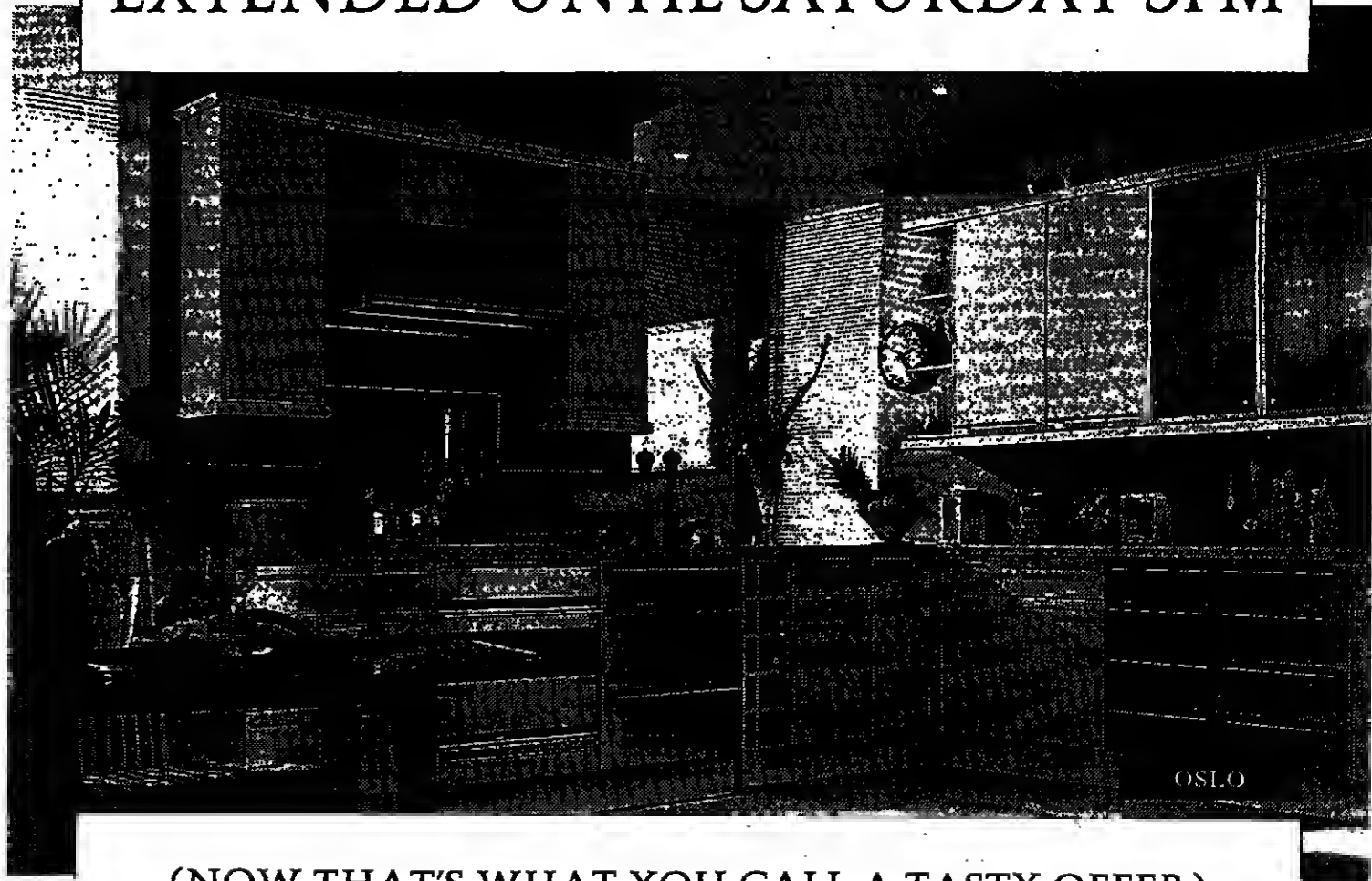
— AP, Harare

## Net goes ape

KOKO, a gorilla that understands sign language, will answer questions on the Internet next week in what is being called the first inter-species computer chat.

— AP, New York

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# France 'had no hand in Rwanda genocide'

By John Lichfield  
in Paris

THE SON of the late President François Mitterrand categorically denied yesterday that France conducted a clandestine policy towards Rwanda, which may have contributed to the genocide of up to 1,000,000 people.

Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, who was for six years his father's special adviser on Africa, also angrily denied suggestions that he was personally embroiled in Rwanda policy. "No, I was not a personal friend of the Rwandan president... No, I do not own several hectares of land in Rwanda," Mr Mitterrand told a committee of the French parliament which is investigating France's role in the central African nation in the early Nineties.

THE RWANDAN government will publicly execute 33 prisoners tomorrow, the first of 130,000 genocide suspects to be tried for their part in the slaughter of an estimated 800,000 people in 1994, writes Sam Jany.

Radio Rwanda said yesterday that the executions would take place in a soccer stadium in the capital, Kigali, and in four provincial towns. Quoting a cabinet communiqué, the report added: "This will act as a lesson to people who do not respect the life of others."

The executions, to be carried out by firing squad, are meant as a warning to Hutu militants "still bent on pursuing genocide".

The cabinet ordered the sentences on Monday, in a meeting in which President Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, sought to placate survivors of the massacres by ignoring pleas for amnesty.

Trials in Rwanda began in 1996 and scores of people have been sentenced to death for their part in the genocide. The brisk pace of these trials has highlighted the sluggish progress of the United Nations court, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, set up to try the genocide ring-leaders, which has yet to set a date to deliver its first verdict.

The executions come two weeks before Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN, is due to visit Rwanda. He rejected any suggestion of complicity by his government in the genocide, or improper support for the Hutu regime which carried it out. He strongly hinted, however, that there might have been a parallel policy, controlled by President Mitterrand, of which he had no knowledge.

On several occasions, he declined to rule out the possibility that arms from other French sources did reach the Rwandan government after the massacres began. No such deliveries were made "as far as my present knowledge goes", he said. Asked whether arms could have been sent through unofficial channels, as the French press and others have suggested, Mr Balladur said: "That is the ques-

tion I am, myself, asking. I have not received a reply." Both he and Alain Juppé, foreign minister at the time and later prime minister, implied that the true responsibility for the genocide should be attributed to Uganda and the United States.

Both these countries had supported the Tutsi rebels, who had come to power in Rwanda, as a result of the 1994 genocide and civil war. "Who profited from the crime?" Mr Juppé asked, at one stage. This amounts to a breathtaking assertion, or implication, that the Tutsis cynically brought about the massacre of hundreds of thousands of members of their own ethnic or social group (including their own relatives) in the hope of regaining power. The parliamentary inquiry is expected to last four months.

## Farmers thrown lifeline in Australia's docks war

By Robert Milliken  
in Sydney

FARM leaders in New South Wales yesterday met maritime union leaders in Sydney who offered to allow farm products stranded on the Sydney docks to be moved out through picket lines. But farmers across the rest of Australia are preparing to smash through picket lines on wharves, where sacked dock workers and their supporters are mounting a crippling blockade.

As the country's dock war entered its second week, Donald McGauchie, president of the powerful farm lobby, the National Farmers' Federation, said a strategy had been drawn up for farmers to drive lorries, tractors and other farm vehicles on to wharves to deliver produce and collect stranded cargo. "The whole thing is in train," he said. "It will occur some time later this week. We've had enough."

The dispute between farmers and dock workers, or "wharfies" as they are known in Australia, is over the future of the Maritime Union of Australia, which has had a monopoly over jobs on the country's docks for almost 100



Fighting spirit: Angry sacked dockers marching through barricades at a Melbourne port to report for work yesterday, but they were later turned back by police. Photograph: AFP

years. The future of unionism in Australia as a whole is also involved, as well as the reputation of the federal conservative coalition government led by John Howard.

Mr Howard is supporting Patrick, the company at the centre of the row, which sacked its 1,400 workforce, all union members, and replaced them with non-union contract work-

ers on 7 April. Patrick is Australia's second-biggest cargo handling company. It claimed that its union workers were overpaid, inefficient and performing at a rate one-third below the world's best practice for handling containers.

Outraged "wharfies", union leaders and supporters have mounted pickets and blockades outside Patrick terminals in

an attempt to make them inoperable.

On Monday, farmers in the New South Wales town of Wollgott held Bob Carr, the state's premier, captive for almost two hours at the local airport and demanded that he order police to remove the pickets at Patrick's Sydney terminal.

But on Tuesday, Patrick appeared to suffer a setback when

Mr Justice Tony North ruled in the Federal Court that the company should re-hire all its sacked union workers and stop hiring replacements from elsewhere. In a case brought by the maritime union, the judge ruled that Patrick had "arguably" engaged in an "unlawful conspiracy" in its treatment of the union workers.

When it sacked them, Patrick announced that its subsidiary employing companies were no longer solvent and were in the hands of administrators. The judge ruled that Patrick had breached the law by putting a complex corporate structure in place to make it easier to sack its own workers, and that they were sacked because they were members of the maritime union.

Australian law forbids an employer from dismissing someone simply because they belong to a union. The company has launched an appeal against the ruling. The Australian Stock Exchange responded to the ruling - which has raised the stakes in the dock war - by suspending trading in Lang Corporation, Patrick's operating company.

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Danger zone: A militiaman, armed with a Second World War German machine-gun, on guard outside his village in the Kabyle mountains

Photograph: Robert Fisk

## Militias implicated in Algeria's reign of terror

By Robert Fisk  
Middle East Correspondent

LIKE BLOOD, the truth is seeping out of Algeria. The first trickle appeared in the privately owned French language newspaper *Liberté* and in *La Tribune*; that at least a dozen officials of the local "home guard" — the "auto-defence" units of village "guards", armed and supplied by the government — had been arrested for imposing a reign of terror against local civilians around Relizane in the west of the country, 160 miles from Algiers. Two mass graves had been dug up, containing the remains of 72 people, some of whom had been buried alive. The mayors of Relizane and the neighbouring town of Oudjda had also been detained.

According to the newspapers — whose information was not officially confirmed — El-Haj Fergane, a member of the RDN (the government party, the Rassemblement National Démocratique), and Hajel-Abed, the head of the local defence unit, had been arrested in Oran. More disturbing was the evidence of a widow whose husband had been, she said, executed by the Relizane mayor. Within a few days, more revelations were forthcoming.

At least 128 cases were being brought before the Algerian courts, according to the newspaper *Al Watan*, of po-

lice and "home guard" militia involving the murder of 34 civilians. The paper said that 120 police officers were now imprisoned in the old French jail of Barberousse at Setkadi in Algiers city, charged with theft, assault, corruption and "abuse of their power".

It added that several members of the "home guard" had been sentenced to four months imprisonment, that a policeman had received a 20-year jail term for death threats and that another had been given 15 years for the rape of four women in the village.

There are armed groups who are out of control in the confusion of war

a public garden in Algiers city. Hitherto, the Algerian authorities have always blamed "Islamists" for the series of massacres in the country, whose civil war has claimed up to 150,000 lives since elections — which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) would have won — were cancelled by the military-backed government in 1991. Algerian officials have been under growing pressure from the United Nations, the European Union and the United States to

bring the perpetrators of the village massacres to justice, and it is possible that these latest revelations are an attempt to assuage the storm of criticism.

Three former members of the security forces, who are now seeking political asylum in Britain, last autumn gave *The Independent* terrifying evidence of torture and "disappearances" of civilians in the Algerian war. But the reports from Oran suggest that the "home guard" units may have played a part in the slaughter of villagers, many of whom voted for the FIS in the 1991 elections. The government blames the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) for the bloodbath around Algiers in which hundreds of men, women and children were killed with knives and hatchets; many were decapitated.

It was Abdelhamid Meziane-Cherif, when minister of interior in 1995, who first decided to arm villagers against the "terrorists" whom the government accused of murdering civilians in the war. Thousands of men in remote hamlets were given weapons, often guns which had been captured from the French during the 1954-62 war of independence, some of them relics from the armours of the Third Reich.

When I visited the "home guard" in the village of Igoudal in the Kabyle mountains in March of 1995, the meo were being armed with French

breech-loading rifles, German sub-machine guns of Second World War vintage, and Italian hunting rifles. Officially, all were vetted by the authorities — but the men were already talking about their killing of an "Islamist" from a neighbouring village who had allegedly been carrying a list of Igoudal citizens to be assassinated.

When I asked a former villager if this was how the Lebanese civil war began, he replied: "Impossible. These men are Algerians fighting for Algeria, who are crushing the fascism of fundamentalism."

It was the eloquent and brave leader of the trade unionist Algerian Workers Party who first spoke out against the arming of these men — again, in an interview with *The Independent*.

The government, she said, had been distributing weapons since 1983. "They say they are to defend isolated regions against the Islamists," she complained in 1995.

"There are now armed groups who are out of control in the confusion of war... When a state delegates its security powers to individuals, the state doesn't exist any more. Now the militias symbolise the privatisation of the war. Some have become little warlords, mafia bands who carry out hold-ups on the roads..."

Her words appear to have been prescient.

## US agonises over child kidnap case

By Mary Dejevsky  
in Washington

AMERICA'S faltering gauges of vocal public opinion — the broadcast talk shows and Internet chat rooms — have been caught up in a fierce new debate. The subject is Stephen Fagan, 56, who lives in Palm Beach, Florida, and who has been charged with abducting his two children 20 years ago.

He is in a Massachusetts prison, trying to raise the 10 per cent deposit for a \$250,000 (£156,000) bail guarantee.

He is accused of kidnapping his daughters, then five and two, from his wife, who had custody. Now in their early twenties, they waved and blew kisses when their father appeared in court this week.

It is alleged Mr Fagan fled with the girls to Florida in 1979, assumed the name William Martin, constructed a past that involved a spell in the CIA, and remarried three times, each time to a woman who could keep him in the style in which he aspired. A lawyer by training, he became a social success, and brought up his daughters by all ac-

counts responsibly. His double life was exposed after a tip-off.

The facts were checked with his ex-wife, Barbara Kurth, now living in Virginia. This was the first time the daughters knew about the true reason for their move to Florida: Mr Fagan had told them their mother had died in a car accident.

Shortly after her ex-husband was charged on Tuesday, Mrs Kurth said she had lived with the loss of her daughters for nearly 20 years and feared even now that she might never see them. So far they are refusing to see her.

Those taking Mr Fagan's side, mostly men, say the full facts of the abduction have yet to come out. His lawyer says Mr Fagan broke the law only to rescue his children from an allegedly alcohol-abusing mother who neglected them — claims made during acrimonious divorce and custody proceedings — and proved an admirable father. The maximum penalty for child abduction in Massachusetts is four years' jail: it was one year when the Fagan girls were kidnapped. The question exercising lawyers is whether justice can ever be done in this case.

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## Busy time for anti-fun brigade

A part from the amazing feats of local football club Rosenborg — conquerors of Blackburn Rovers, AC Milan and Real Madrid in recent seasons — the people of Trondheim have had little to celebrate since the wild parties of the Vikings. The pillaged treasures are long gone, today's oil money flows into southern towns, and when the unquenchable thirst of the Norsemen of old returns on sullen winter nights, there is nowhere to buy a bottle. A mere handful of state-run liquor stores service more than 100,000 throats in office hours.

"Service", though, is probably the wrong word. Laid out as old-fashioned pharmacies, these shops are designed to make the purchasing of alcohol thoroughly unpleasant. You queue at the counter for an eternity, point at a bottle safely locked up in a glass cupboard, and are asked to hand over ludicrous sums of money in exchange.

Scarcity and inflated prices have unwittingly turned booze into a precious commodity, akin to an elixir of life. It is a rare honour to be treated to a drop by a Norwegian host, and it is no good stroking an empty glass for the whole evening: there will be no refill. Unless, of course, you are sitting in a living room in Trondheim, Nor-

### TRONDHEIM DIARY



Imre Karacs

way's moonshine capital. From nothing but sugar and yeast, gallons of spirit are produced on home-made stills. The stuff is invariably foul, though after the third dose the senses are deadened to the yeasty odour and the fruit essences used to mask it. It is very bad manners to salute the "treasure" with anything less than "Boundless delight".

Norway's obsession with penalising alcohol out of existence stems from a 19th-century religious movement. Even today, you cannot get a drink in most villages; hence the spectacle of lobster-pink Norwegians on holiday falling off their dock chairs after one Martini. And the Draconian alcohol laws are set to become tougher, courtesy of the Christian People's

Party which rules the coalition government. The Prime Minister, Kjell Magne Bondevik, hails from the Bible-belt and although he has had himself photographed sipping wine, the zealots in his party are pressing for yet more restrictions. An advert for egg-nog was banned last week, and there are proposals to label spirits as "poison".

But the Christians are reluctant to be perceived as killjoys, so in return for making Norway dry, they are offering to use their divine influence to keep the rain clouds at bay. The party wants to instruct priests to revive a Sunday prayer for "good and beneficial weather". But God appears to be moving in mysterious ways. The true believers in the south-west have just experienced their most rotten Easter in living memory, while the heathens of the north have been basking in glorious sunshine.

Nothing is holier on the Sabbath than a brisk trek up the mountains on skis. The weekly excursions have made Norwegians sickeningly fit and healthy — their one saving grace is that they all smoke like chimneys.

Not for much longer. The anti-fun brigade have been out with their no-smoking

stickers, nailing them to public buildings. Addicts have been driven into the freezing forests for a puff, but now a local authority is trying to stub that out too, erecting no-smoking signs at the intersections of ski-tracks in the wilderness. Five of these have, however, been stolen. It seems there are some things even Norwegians will not put up with.

For a prosperous little nation with negligible unemployment and a cradle-to-grave welfare system second to none, Norway has a surprisingly rampant crime scene. Aside from the stolen signs, there has been an outbreak of graffiti at Trondheim's brand new theatre, and now comes news of a brazen attempt to smuggle illicit goods into the country. Heroin? You may wonder, or guns?

No. Chickens. One ton of frozen German poultry, to be precise, plus a few legs of lamb, found in a van. Subsidies designed to keep Arctic farmers rich have driven up the price of food so even chickens have become intoxicatingly expensive. The owner of the van, a Swede who claimed he was carrying "presents", was fined about £1,000. Next time he should try smuggling alcohol. That is what everybody else does.



On World Book Day,  
Boyd Tonkin, Literary  
Editor, selects 50  
works of non-fiction  
from the last 53 years  
and says why you  
should read them

# Fifty books to change your life

WHEN IN DOUBT, make a list. With the close of a century and a millennium ready to deliver an apocalyptic double whammy, the culture of the Nervous Nineties has begun to draw up literary inventories as if — well, as if there were no tomorrow. They stretch from the patrician (Harold Bloom's *The Western Canon*) to the populist (the Waterstone's customers who crowned *The Lord of the Rings* as their Book of the Century). Whatever their height of brow, these pre-millennial scorecards share a tilt towards imaginative literature, and to novels in particular. So here, to celebrate World Book Day, is a fiction-free list to wreck your breakfast and cause mayhem over the marmalade.

In date order, I have chosen 50 significant works of non-fiction (also excluding poetry and drama) published since 1945. In a small, selective and utterly subjective way, they represent something of what has happened in the world — and in the heads of its citizens — since the hot war turned cold. They express (of course) an English speaker's language bias. From Moscow or Madras (even from Manhattan) the view would look different. And, for several crucial genres, one book has to stand for many others, equally definitive.

I include a couple of collections of work written before 1945, but which only reached a general audience in later editions. But I omit so-called "influential" writings by bullies in power whose readers had precious little choice: so no *Little Red Book*, even though Mao Tse-tung had 750 million copies printed during his catastrophic tyranny. Right or wrong, a book or a blessing, the choices also rest on a firm foundation of fact or argument; so no New Age vapourings, either. If you wish to complain, please do. That's the point. I accept in advance every charge of partiality or oversight you may wish to hurl. But remember that one big casualty of late 20th-century thought — across a broad range of disciplines — has been the very notion of the disinterested observer.

What does a list like this overlook? The printed book has yielded some ground to other media. In the late 1890s, the equivalent list would no doubt have found a special place for *The Origin of Species* — not just a landmark in human thought, but a compelling read as well. But the transmission of Big Ideas has changed since Darwin's time. You could argue that no single figure has shaped late-20th-century lives more than Alan Turing. In deciphering the Nazis' Enigma codes, he helped the free mind to survive: in his work on electronic computation, he sketched a blueprint for the machines that now run our world. Yet to cite Turing's *Collected Papers* in an exercise like this would be a silly bit of posturing. In an age of fragmented expertise, popularisation — itself a subtle skill — creates the necessary link between specialist and public. Turing's ideas loom large behind the work of Roger Penrose, which I do mention here.

Something else has shifted since the last century. Some of the cultural forms that people cherish most have failed to find a proper echo in the pages of the book. Think of film, television or popular music. Nothing in the forests of critique and analysis can match the sheer force of the originals. Those arts demand their own lists — but that's another story for another, pre-millennial morning.

**1 Karl Popper: *The Open Society and its Enemies* (1945)**  
A decisive early shot in the Cold War of the mind, as the polymath philosopher assaulted total thought-systems and their creators — from Plato up to Marx — as the worst foes of freedom.

**2 Benjamin Spock: *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care* (1946)**  
As the West's postwar baby-boom got under way, the Bible of parental indulgence arrived on cue to dethrone medical authority and help coddle the most privileged generation in history.

**3 Anne Frank: *Diary of a Young Girl* (1947)**  
The world's attempts to grasp the Holocaust have never ceased since the death-camp gates first opened. From the secreted Amsterdam

teenager to the workforce of Oskar Schindler, personal accounts have focused the overwhelming facts.

**4 Antonio Gramsci: *Prison Notebooks* (1947)**  
As he slowly rotted in Mussolini's jails, the Italian Communist leader planned a more democratic, flexible future for socialism in a plural society. His vision spurred a half-century of reform on the left.

**5 Simone de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex* (1949)**  
For centuries to come, the large-scale entry of women into the public realm will count as a defining breakthrough of the post-war years. This huge critique of inequality prepared the ground, but met with scorn from most "progressive" men.

**6 Elizabeth David: *Mediterranean Food* (1950)**  
As people in the West got richer, their tastes grew nostalgically simpler: this prophetic of peasant virtues helped bring Nature back into the bourgeois home.

**7 Albert Camus: *The Rebel* (1951)**  
Breaking with socialism (and with Sartre), the Existential maverick led two generations towards a bleak freedom that promised no salvation but offered only its own reward.

**8 Ludwig Wittgenstein: *Philosophical Investigations* (1953)**  
No method, no guru, no plan: the gnomic thinker's jottings paved the way for a horde of anti-theoretical theorists across the human sciences. Life — and thought — became a game whose rules might change at any time.

**9 Claude Lévi-Strauss: *Tristes Tropiques* (1955)**  
Slowly, the West learned to understand the "Third World" in a post-imperial framework; this great anthropologist's testament proved a landmark on that road.

**10 Roland Barthes: *Mythologies* (1957)**  
Meanwhile, at home, the new mass media forged its own exotic culture, and a quizzical Parisian aesthete opened the floodgates of study and analysis.

**11 JK Galbraith: *The Affluent Society* (1958)**  
Market-led prosperity (for those who enjoyed it) often led to more disquiet than satisfaction; and a liberal US economist diagnosed the emerging divide between private wealth and public squalor.

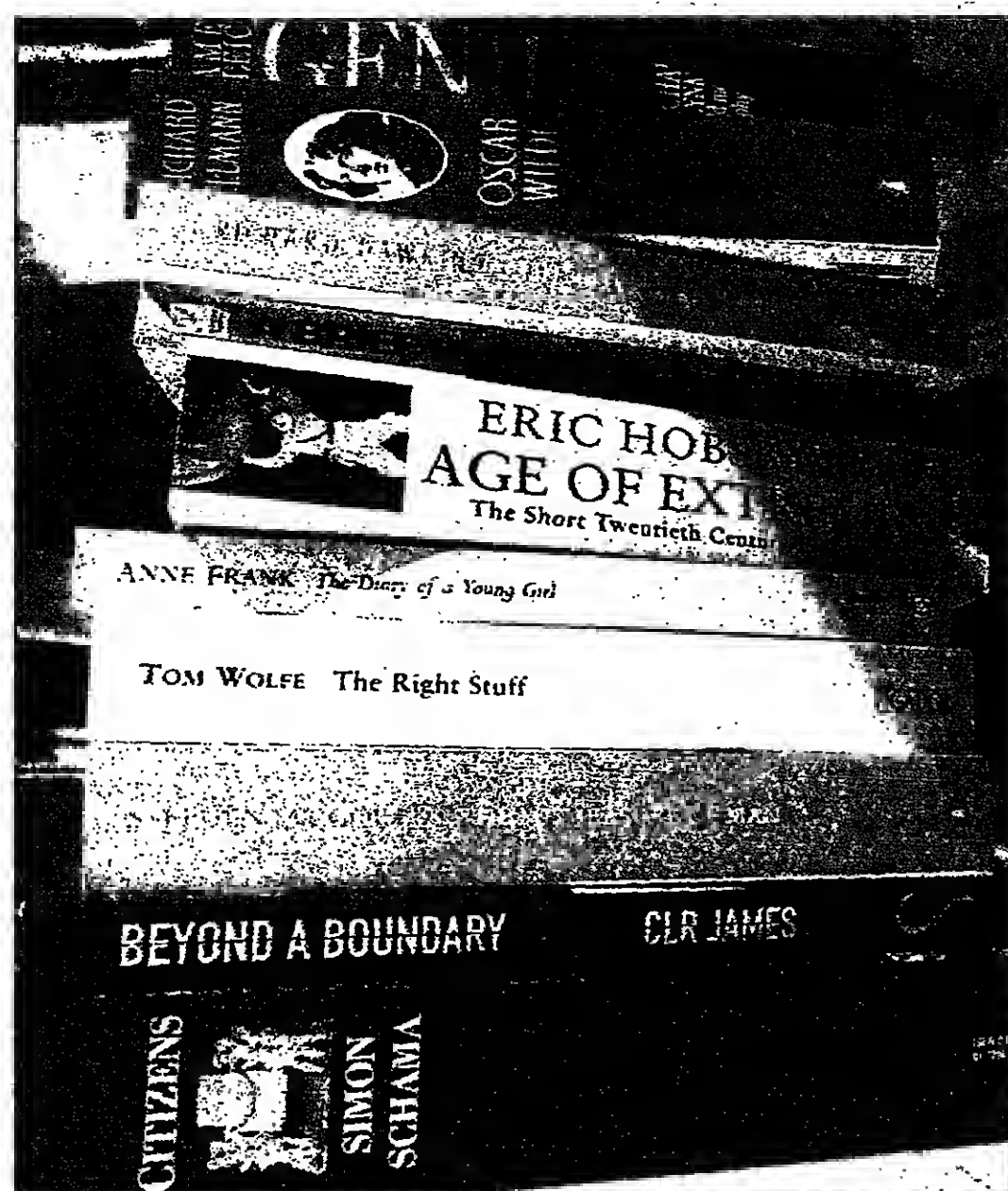
**12 Melanie Klein: *The Psychoanalysis of Children* (1960)**  
To troubled families, childhood could seem a darker continent than ever (and one often threatened by adult invaders). Freud's children — literally, in Anna's case — turned their attention from the couch to the play-pen.

**13 Hannah Arendt: *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (1961)**  
As a captured Nazi faced an Israeli court (and then the noose), this leading émigré thinker took a break from high theory to pinpoint the banality of Europe's evil.

**14 Walter Benjamin: *Illuminations* (1961)**  
A Weimar German friend of Arendt, dead in his flight from Hitler by 1940; but his posthumously read essays opened a new chapter in the study of modern culture.

**15 Frantz Fanon: *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961)**  
As liberation movements stirred around the ex-colonial globe, they turned to this black French psychiatrist for a grasp of the harm that injustice inflicted on soul as well as body.

**16 Michel Foucault: *Madness and Civilization* (1961)**  
The austere archaeologist of thought went on to transform



ideas about Western philosophy, punishment and sexuality, but this study of the mental asylum's birth helped to hasten its death.

**17 Rachel Carson: *Silent Spring* (1962)**  
A case of being right too early: this prophetic warning of environmental disaster went underground in years of greed, but survived to shape Green activism.

**18 Milton Friedman: *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962)**  
As the left hogged all the intellectual limelight, a free-market reaction was slowly brewing. Twenty years on, it would come to an explosive boil.

**19 James Baldwin: *The Fire Next Time* (1963)**  
These essays from a leading novelist, on the eve of the Black Power era, capture the impatience at broken promises and enduring slights that exposed the flaws in the liberal politics of race.

## 20 BRILLIANT BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

To mark World Book Day, 10.5 million school students under the age of 18 will this week receive a £1 voucher. But if you don't already know your way around the children's shelves in the bookshop, where should new readers (or parents) begin?

Nicholas Tucker, children's literature specialist at Sussex University, selects his personal Top Tens for younger and older age-groups.

**Primary**  
**Janet and Allan Ahlberg: *The Jolly Postman***  
An ingenious picture-story, full of jokes, containing real letters in real envelopes.  
**Anthony Browne: *Griffin***  
An unforgettable picture book, full of half-hidden meanings becoming clearer at each reading.  
**Roald Dahl: *The Magic Finger***  
A lesser-known but very satisfying story, leaving plenty to talk about.  
**Grimm's Fairy Tales**  
Any edition will do: this must be the best collection of stories ever.  
**Ted Hughes: *The Iron Man***  
A story with the excitement, occasional moments of fear and the final resolution of a traditional fairy tale.  
**Clive King: *Sig of the Dump***  
The best story about an imaginary friend and all the adventures that follow.

**Beatrix Potter: *The Tale of Peter Rabbit***  
Simply the best short story ever written for children.  
**Catherine Storr: *Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf***  
Witty, clever and confidence-building all at once.  
**Dr Seuss: *The Cat in the Hat***  
Riotous pictures plus instantly memorable verse which is also consistently funny.

**EB White: *Charlotte's Web***  
A magical story about living and dying which children have always taken to.

**Secondary**  
**Joan Aiken: *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase***  
A story that never lets up on excitement, written by a master of her craft.

**Nina Bayden: *Carrie's War***  
War evacuates in Wales watch and listen to everything going on around them. A marvellous novel.  
**Anne Fine: *Madame Doubtfire***  
A hundred times better than the film, this book is very funny, sometimes a little sad, and always rings true.

**Alan Garner: *The Owl Service***  
A masterfully written, powerful story that grows to a terrific climax.  
**Gene Kemp: *The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler***  
A warm, noisy story, with the best final punch-lines in all children's literature.  
**Margaret Mahy: *The Haunting***  
A wonderful novel, whose ghosts always contain a psychological truth.

**Philippa Pearce: *Tom's Midnight Garden***  
A story to compare with any classic from the past, this is beautifully written and utterly gripping.  
**Robert Louis Stevenson: *Treasure Island***  
The best adventure story ever, with no sign of fading.

**Jill Paton Walsh: *The Dolphin Crossing***  
A fast-moving, subtle and exhilarating story based on the Dunkirk rescue during the last war.  
**Robert Westall: *The Machine Gunners***  
An autobiographical story that leaps off the page, combining toughness with tenderness.

**26 Maya Angelou: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969)**  
As ideals clash, experience assumes a new authority — especially the experience of the insulted and injured (such as a dirt-poor, abused black girl from the South). The "wretched of the earth" now spoke in their own voices, not via political proxies.

**27 Germaine Greer: *The Female Eunuch* (1970)**  
Women's liberation enters its most active phase with a fiery yet erudite blend of culture and psychology, as old scholarship and new subversiveness combine.

**28 Alex Comfort: *The Joy of Sex* (1972)**  
As the East waved Mao's thoughts, the West fingered its favourite little handbook to the libidinal economy: a "gourmet guide" that assimilated desire into consumption.

**29 Ernst Schumacher: *Small is Beautiful* (1973)**  
The costs of consumerism grew more visible, and eco-politics tried to shed what most of the world's people never had anyway. Here, the doctrine of sustainability found its theologian.

**30 Alexander Solzhenitsyn: *The Gulag Archipelago, 1918-1956* (1973)**  
Telling truths about the barbarous past accelerated the collapse of Stalinism as dogma and system. This epic of moral accountability gave the process a huge shove.

**31 Primo Levi: *The Periodic Table* (1975)**  
Not just the most artful of Auschwitz survivors, but a witness who found in the consoling patterns of science a respite from man's cruelties — even though suicide claimed him in the end.

**32 Noam Chomsky: *Reflections on Language* (1976)**  
Wearing his scientific hat, the lifelong anarchist (and tireless foe of US foreign policy) endowed us with huge innate gifts of linguistic invention: we're all born free, and hard-wired for creativity.

**33 Edward Said: *Orientalism* (1977)**  
With an eye on his own people's tragedy, the Palestinian scholar showed how the West had systematically got the East wrong, and so fixed the tone for post-colonial intellectuals everywhere.

**34 Willy Brandt (chairman): *North-South: a blueprint for survival* (1980)**  
As tensions between the rich and poor worlds rose into a constant fever, the German leader sought to balance the demands of the deprived against the selfish inertia of the haves.

**35 Tom Wolfe: *The Right Stuff* (1980)**  
A savagely shrewd and witty journalist (one mythic figure of the post-war years) turns his gaze on another myth: the heroism of space travel, which beguiled the entire planet and then fell out of the public orbit.

**36 Stephen Jay Gould: *The Mismeasure of Man* (1981)**  
As science grew more specialised, some of its stars fought to keep open its channels to liberal democracy — as in this attack on the abuses of IQ and other quantifying methods.

**37 V S Naipaul: *Among the Believers* (1981)**  
Thoughtful travel-writing boomed along with affordable long-haul flights; cultural identity frayed; and Islam staged its surprising resurgence. The nomadic Trinidadian-Indian-Englishman covered all these bases.

**38 Richard Dawkins: *The Blind Watchmaker* (1986)**  
Triumphant neo-Darwinist manifestos didn't come more ruthless or eloquent than this. So the fierce "anti-humanism" that Parisian Marxists had dreamed of in 1968 arrived, courtesy of Anglo-Saxon zoologists.

**39 Allan Bloom: *The Closing of the American Mind* (1987)**  
The rightward turn in politics sought its liberal-bashing prophets, and this one spawned a generation of rhetorical attacks on multiculturalism, "dumbing down", and so on.

**40 Richard Ellmann: *Oscar Wilde* (1987)**  
A golden age for literary biography saw certain figures acquire more resonance in death than they ever had in life: 100 years on, this one turned from scandal into sage.

**41 Jean Baudrillard: *America* (1988)**  
He had seen the future, and it shopped. Like its subject, this typical collage from a PoMo guru managed to be both very profound and totally superficial, all at once.

**42 Stephen Hawking: *A Brief History of Time* (1988)**  
As the humanities seemed to implode into relativism, big-picture cosmology fed a hunger for enduring truth. This black-hole specialist revived the Newtonian model of the Great Mind scanning the heavens from its (wheel)chair.

**43 David Harvey: *The Condition of Postmodernity* (1989)**  
Spanning culture and economics, this remarkable synthesis argued that, behind the jargon, our reality truly has altered. An important breakthrough from a geographer.

**44 Roger Penrose: *The Emperor's New Mind* (1989)**  
As micro-computing transformed everyday life, its intellectual fallout spread over a vast area — for instance, into the brain-computer metaphor that drives this provocative model of how the mind developed.

**45 Simon Schama: *Citizens* (1989)**  
Narrative history revived, but so did discontent with liberal pieties about the past. This chronicle of the French Revolution pooped the 200th-anniversary party by asking whether the gains were really worth the pain.

**46 Jung Chang: *Wild Swans* (1992)**  
Individual stories, not rival theories, taught the world how state communism failed — as in this blockbuster tale of the women of a storm-tossed Chinese dynasty.

**47 Francis Fukuyama: *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992)**  
In the wake of Soviet collapse, the "unipolar" globe needed an overarching theory; this smooth-even smug — paean of praise to market liberalism drew a line in the sands of ideology.

**48 James Gleick: *Genius: Richard Feynman and modern Physics* (1992)**  
An object lesson in high-level popular science, this biography brought the famously wayward mind behind the new quantum thinking into focus, and showed that the odd wacky maverick could still change the world.

**49 Eric Hobsbawm: *Age of Extremes: the short 20th century, 1914-1991* (1994)**  
The *fin de siècle* summings-up began to multiply, but none managed the mordant eloquence of the radical historian who had been there, done that — and could recall the placards in Berlin announcing Hitler's ascent.

**50 Angela Carter: *Shaking a Leg* (1997)**  
A hit of a cheat, since these essays on culture and society first appeared from the Sixties to the Eighties; together, they prove that the despised press could breed the best in post-war thinking and writing; and that, in an age of woody fantasy, witty rationality could still prevail.

If you feel you could suggest a better list of 50 non-fiction books, write to Boyd Tonkin at *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL. A crate of champagne for the best selection.

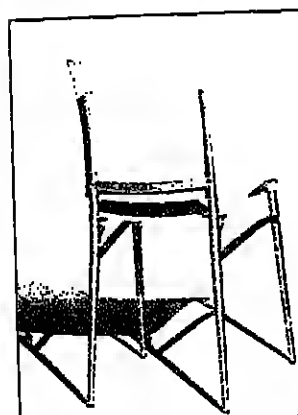
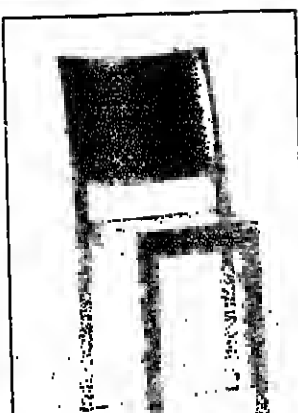
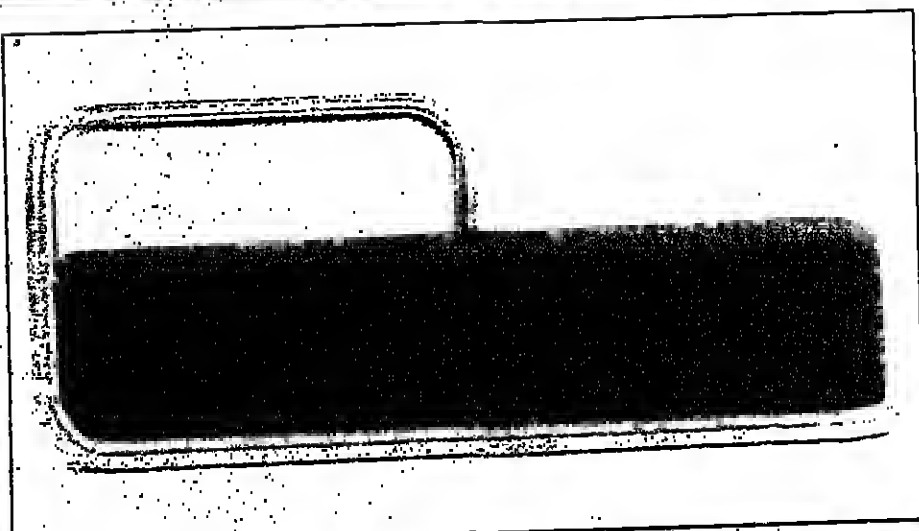
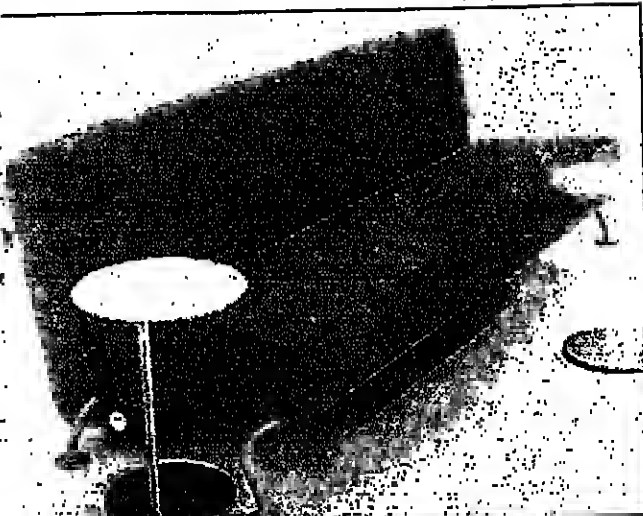


**Life**

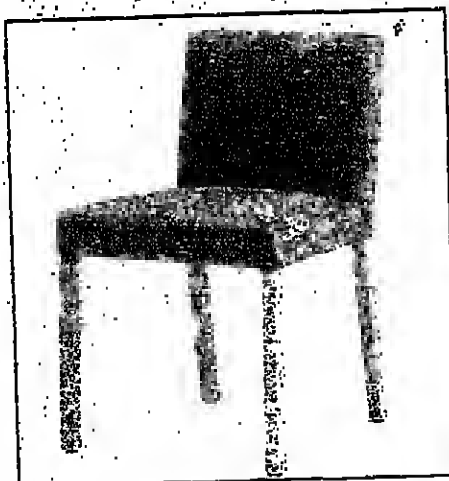
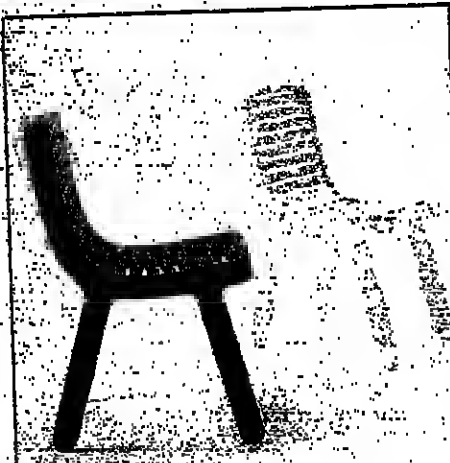
A black and white photograph of a dark, atmospheric interior space, possibly a stage set or a film set. The room is dimly lit, with several large, glowing, conical pendant lights hanging from the ceiling. The walls are dark and textured, and the floor is covered with patterned rugs. In the background, there are shelves or built-in furniture with various objects on them. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.

Architect Alessandro Mendini, who designed the Swatch watch shops, mixes different camouflage patterns from military uniforms around the world on everyday objects. Then with Prospero Rasulo he puts the chairs and tables, shelves and rugs and lampshades inside an Italian Red Cross tent. "The result is a project for peace," Mendini argues. Military camouflage which disappears into nature is inspired by some of the loveliest landscapes.

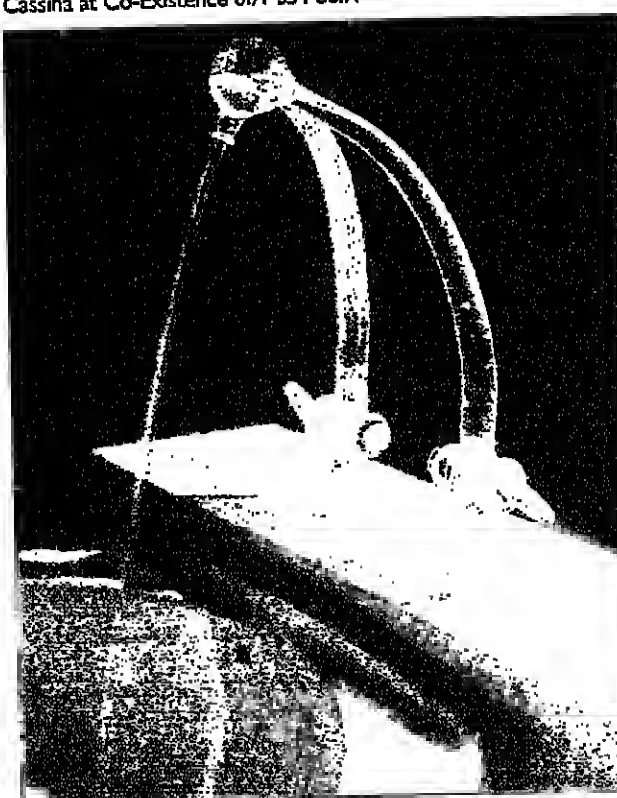
Verner Panton's 1969 sinuous S bend chair made by Vitra (above) loses its identity beside the other camouflaged everyday objects. Reversing what he calls "the cruel sense of military camouflage" Mendini labels the collection eco-chic.



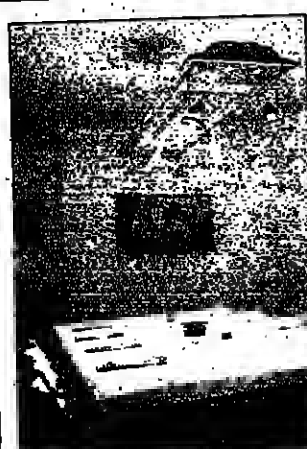
Starck Clones...Three new chairs launched at the Milan Fair, all by Starck, for three different companies have a certain Starckness of silhouette. From left: Starck for Kartell opening their own shop inside Selfridges in September; 'Chameleon' for Driade at Viaduct Tel 278 8456; 'Miss C.O.C.O.' for Corning at Co-Exposition 071 354 8817.



Matthew Hilton's 'Mercury' sofa for Driade at Viaduct.



Above : 'Peepshow' wallpaper by Gijis Baker for Droog. In paper rolls of 500 x 70 cms is polka-dotted with holes of different circumference. Contact Droog Design Foundation in Amsterdam  
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By controlling the quality of the light he hopes to bring about this change in the working environment.

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**Sarah Bailey** *ELLE MAGAZINE*



There are two sides to every story. Helen is about to live both of them...at the same time. Romance was never this much fun.

GWYNETH PATROW



## Getting sweaty over exercising advice

WHEN we go to the doctor's these days we often find ourselves in a cleft stick. Part of us knows that every bit of advice they give us is liable to be overturned by some new piece of research produced by some poly-turned-university (the following day, we no longer trust our doctor's advice. In other words, and freely chuck down too many of his pills, or drink alcohol with anti-biotics or tranquillisers, or chuck his prescription in the wastepaper basket, knowing that nothing very desperate is likely to happen to us. But part of us also sees the doctor as a god. So when he puts his fingers together and says: "Hm, how much do you really drink? Smoke? Exercise?" we feel like naughty schoolchildren, and go home feeling, like Dani, full of guilt and confusion. She "should" exercise. Who knows what might happen to her in her old age if she doesn't? She might seize up and pack up like a rusty, unused old car.

The passion for exercise is one that has not been with us long. Victorian ladies were never told to exercise except for a hit of leisurely walking from one end of the large country house to the other. There is no question that it improves muscle-tone, circulation and so on. But so what? And have people looked enough at the disadvantages of exercise? The jog-deaths, the syndrome that means that if you run on pavements you splinter your bones or something, or grind away your kneecaps. I know a couple of exercisers who now can barely walk because they have

Although she is healthy, on hearing she has a sedentary job Dani's doctor told her she should work out more. She hates the idea. What should she do?

### DILEMMAS



### VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

quite literally run themselves into the ground.

The latest advice is that brisk walking is the best, but soon someone will come up with a good reason to avoid that.

Dani's perfectly fit and well. My own feeling is that if there's nothing wrong with her it's best to leave well alone. Even if she scores heroin every night, drinks a bottle of whisky and smokes forty a day, if she's fit and well, then why mess around with the status quo? Like everyone I've tried swimming, jogging, yoga, gym, aerobics and the works: even, once, to my utter shame and embarrassment, a personal trainer, so enslaved was I to the idea that exercise does you good. And where did it

get me? Nowhere. I felt just as grotty and sluggish as I did the day I started. Those endorphins that I'd been promised simply failed to materialise.

Far from producing endorphins I produced only chemicals that resulted in rage, misery, cold, irritation and exhaustion, not to mention a considerably lighter purse. Not for me the pleasant after-glow of the work-out. Like Dani, I guess I'm just not an exercise person.

I read a lovely piece of research recently (probably from another of the aforementioned establishments) that said that a doctor had done trials on medical students. One group he asked to exercise their little fingers daily; the other he asked to imagine exercising them. The result was that the exercising lot developed 30 per cent more strength in the little fingers, but the non-exercising lot still developed 10 per cent.

My advice to Dani, if she wants to get fit, is to keep on dreaming. Imagine running up and down mountains, along rivers, pounding under fresh waterfalls, speeding over lush meadows, on and on. It'll probably do her no end of good. The only problem is that she may visualise her kneecaps into non-existence as well.

### READERS REPLIES

I think Dani has not appreciated the true extent of her dilemma. She should go back to her doctor and ask what the relative risks are of her continuing the current lifestyle and of changing it in the way suggested. Only then will she have the necessary information for calculating a solution. The calculation can also include her own values and attitudes. She might also bear in mind that her doctor's definitions of "perfectly healthy" and "fit" might be different from hers.

Her doctor might be a particularly old-fashioned, authoritarian, paternalistic type, but most of us today present our patients with choices and leave them to make a decision that fits with their own hopes and aspirations for quality and length of life. Dr A R Cadamy

Along with Dani, I too am middle-aged, hate exercise and in addition have no interest in sport whatsoever.

### NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I'm 46 and have decided to apply for a new job, but I have met with brick walls everywhere. It seems it is because of my age. Have other people experienced ageism at work? And do you think it would be a good idea to lie about my age on any other CVs I write? I look quite young.

Yours, Kate

However, I do recognise the importance of exercise and for this reason, despite owning a car, I have cycled to work now for twenty years. If this is a feasible option, then I would recommend Dani to do likewise.

Eric Fitch, Bucks.

Like Dani I don't like exercise for the sake of it, but I think I keep fit simply by walking everywhere - to the shops, to work etc. Using a brisk pace one feels much fresher after a walk than a drive.

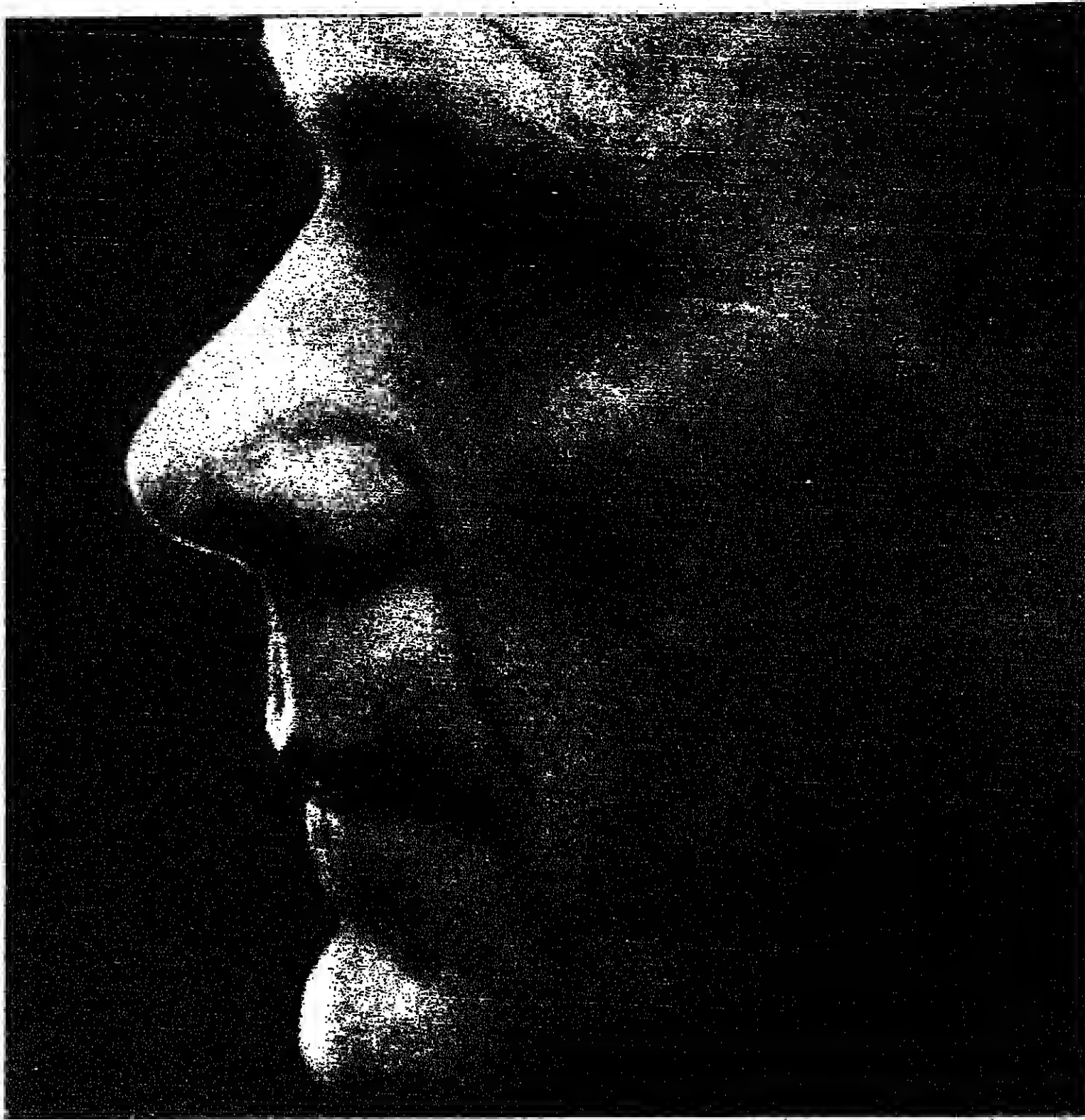
Lee Gordon

The problem is the doctor's, not Dani's. Dani should follow good American advice: if it ain't bust, don't fix it. When healthy people take exercise their metabolism leads them to take more; since this is clearly not on Dani's agenda, I would say don't bother. So, the advice for Dani is to go on as now: it obviously works. However, there might be one small experiment worth trying. This is to go upstairs, if and when necessary, two at a time instead of one. It could combine possibly enhanced feelings of good health with satisfaction at reducing by half the time spent on unavoidable exercise.

John Pelling

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from *Interiors*. Send comments and suggestions to *Virginia Ironside at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL* (fax 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning. If you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

Interiors



Dr Ian Oliver: 'An unshakeable belief in himself and a skin an elephant would envy'

Photograph: Jeff Mitchell

# Crimes...and punishment

An uncertain future faces Dr Ian Oliver, a chief constable who got into one scrap too many. Jason Bennetto traces his rise to power and his sudden fall

EIGHT years ago, when Ian Oliver was awarded the top post at Grampian police force in north-east Scotland, his brilliant career was in full swing. Already a chief constable at the age of 39, he looked set to pick up one of the country's most prestigious policing jobs: he had been tipped as a future Commissioner of the Metropolitan force in London.

Intelligent - he has PhDs in law and public administration - ambitious, and media friendly, he seemed to have all the necessary ingredients for success. But in the past two years his apparently unstoppable march forward has faltered, stumbled, and this week finally collapsed after both his police board and the Secretary of State for Scotland called for his resignation following a highly critical report into the handling of a child murder inquiry.

On Tuesday the Scottish councillors who make up the police selection board turned down Dr Oliver's offer to hring forward his early retirement and step down immediately. Instead they plan to use disciplinary procedures to force him to retire at a meeting a week tomorrow. In an unprecedented and very public row, both sides are refusing to back down in what has become a personal battle of wills.

His growing number of critics believe he was an arrogant egotist who overreached himself and finally self-destructed.

Dr Oliver, 58, believes he is the victim of jealous and scheming politicians who wanted him out of the way because he had become troublesome and posed a stumbling block to their greater ambitions.

Whatever the truth, he has shown an unshakeable belief in himself along with a skin an elephant would envy. Throughout his decline, whether it was allegations of sexual impropriety, dereliction of duty or plain incompetence, he has given the impression that his accusers were irritants barely worthy of his attention.

A police insider commented: "He's outspoken and a maverick. He's extremely intelligent and never backs down - it's this arrogance that has caused his downfall."

What took his various run-ins into a new league was the spectacular war of words he has waged in the past few months with the two most powerful politicians in Scotland, culminating in Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State, telling Dr Oliver on Monday to "pack his bags and go now".

Born in west London in 1940, he followed his father, a Metropolitan police constable whose bravery and dedication were recognised with a George Medal, into the job. At 21 he joined the Met, and the year before his promotion to sergeant in 1965, he married Elsie Chalmers, a police constable. While at the Met he was awarded a scholarship which enabled him to take a law degree and later a PhD. He rapidly scaled the ranks, becoming a superintendent by 1976, a chief superintendent a year later with Northumbria constabulary, and assistant chief constable the following year.

He gets frustrated with his work - his ideal job is probably a professor of criminology at Harvard University, an insider said.

His first real setback came in August 1996 when he failed to be short-listed for chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Rather than accept the decision, he wrote to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, demanding an explanation. It later emerged that the reason for his exclusion was because he had not completed a senior command

handling of the case by social services was published. He also said Grampian's internal inquiry into the murder was inadequate and ordered another chief constable to conduct an independent investigation. Dr Oliver retaliated by accusing Mr McLeish of making "intemperate" comments.

His reputation suffered a very different blow in February when the *Sun* newspaper published a photograph of the chief constable kissing a 26-year-old married mother of two. The week following the publication of the photograph Dr Oliver stayed inside his home, virtually under siege from the reporters and camera crews.

But the most damaging episode was to come earlier this week, with the publication of an independent report into Grampian's handling of the Scott Simpson case. Far from supporting Dr Oliver's claim that his force had done nothing wrong, it listed a catalogue of incompetence, compounded by lack of leadership. It said a subsequent internal inquiry seemed to be aimed at covering up the truth.

Donald Dewar suggested Mr Oliver should "pack his bags". The Secretary of State has consistently used the title of "Mr", rather than the preferred "Dr", to the irritation of the chief constable who believes it is a deliberate slight.

Dr Oliver believes part of Mr Dewar's desire to see him go is because he is viewed as an opponent of Mr Dewar's plans for a reformed Scottish police system, possibly leading to a national force. This theory was given added weight by the announcement yesterday by Mr Dewar of a root and branch review of the structure of Scotland's eight police forces.

The police chief's lack of tact and "respect" in dealing with the 15-strong Grampian police board also appears to have seriously back-fired and it seems it will take a miracle - or some extraordinary persuasion - to save his police career next Friday. But as a source at the board said the board members are not in a mood for reconciliation. They are not interested in doing any "deals", he said. "It has become more of a matter of punishment."

His growing number of critics believe he's an arrogant egotist who overreached and finally self-destructed

By the time he was 39, Oliver had been promoted to chief constable of Central Scotland - the youngest to reach that rank in Scotland.

He found it hard to hide his disdain for running such a small force and in 1990 was lured to the top job at Grampian police by the chance of overseeing such high-profile assignments as security for the Royal Family at Balmoral and policing North Sea oil rigs.

But despite his vision and intellect, at Grampian he started to develop a reputation for being aloof and unwilling to go along with all the usual niceties of being a chief constable. At meetings he has been known to pick up a newspaper, or stare out the window, as soon as he had finished his business.

It was also while he was at Grampian that he converted to evangelical Christianity at a Billy Graham rally. He became known for his outspoken

critique. Rejection number two came in the form of the hotly-contested post of Britain's first "drugs tsar", which went to fellow chief constable, Keith Hellawell.

Skirmishes with politicians began with Alex Salmond, the Scottish Nationalist Party leader, who called for Dr Oliver's resignation when, in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy, he said a ban on handguns would be unworkable.

But it was his handling of the case of Scott Simpson, the nine-year-old boy killed by the known paedophile, Steven Leisk in July last year in Aberdeen, that was to bring his eventual downfall and a very public slanging match with government ministers.

The first clash came in January when Henry McLeish, Scottish home affairs minister, said he was "astonished and angry" that Dr Oliver was at a conference in Taiwan when a report into the

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17/OBITUARIES

# Charles Lang

ONE OF Hollywood's finest cameramen, with over 150 features to his credit, Charles Lang became a master of black-and-white photography during the 25 years he was under contract to Paramount, his delicate textures and artful use of light and shadow making him a favourite of leading ladies.

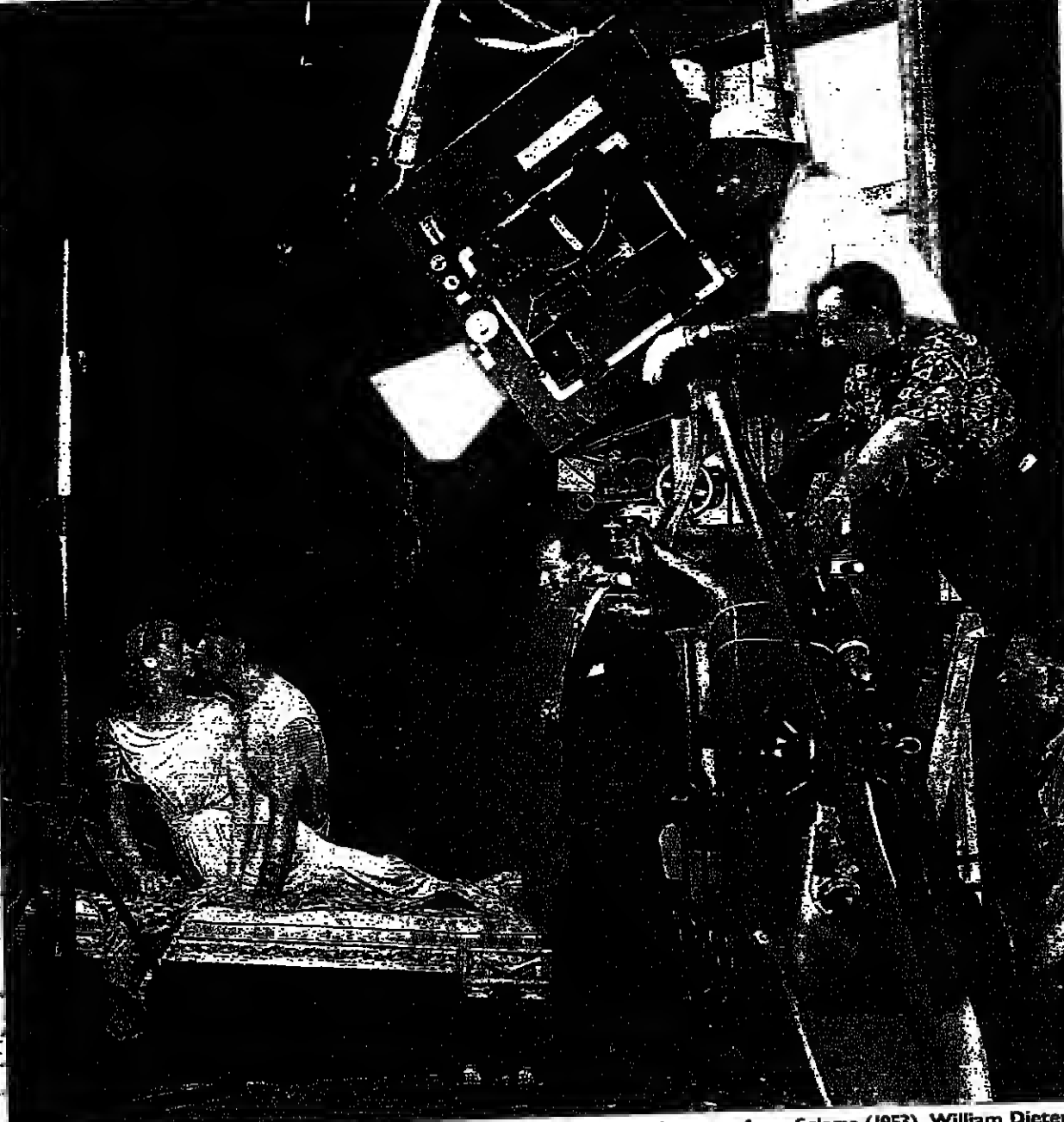
His work was admired by such leading directors as Mitchell Leisen, Billy Wilder and Henry Hathaway, and when he moved into colour he produced such stunningly photographed westerns as *Gunfight at the OK Corral* and *One-Eyed Jacks*. Highly esteemed by his peers, he won the Academy Award in 1932 for *A Farewell to Arms* and was nominated a further 16 times.

Born Charles Bryant Lang Jr in Bluff, Utah, in 1902, he attended Lincoln High School, and briefly studied law at the University of Southern California before finding work as a laboratory assistant at the Reelart Studio in 1919, graduating to assistant cameraman on silent movies. In 1922 he moved to Preferred Pictures as a still photographer and the following year joined Paramount as an assistant cameraman. When his first solo work as cameraman, *Ritz* (1925), proved disappointing he returned to working as an assistant while perfecting his craft, and when he photographed *The Shopworn Angel* (1928) and *Innocents of Paris* (1929) the results were impressive enough for the studio to give him a long-term contract as director of photography.

— he was to stay with them until 1952, after which he freelanced until his final film, *Foxy Caruso*, in 1973.

Paramount, heavily influenced by their contract directors Ernst Lubitsch and Josef von Sternberg, were considered to have the best photographed films in the industry. Lang worked on several films with the director John Cromwell, including *Street of Chance* (1930), *Unfaithful* (1931) and *The Vice Squad* (1931), before his Oscar-winning work on Frank Borzage's *A Farewell to Arms*; its emotional intensity aided immeasurably by Lang's exquisite translucent lighting.

He became the favourite of female stars and photographed Mae West in *She Done Him Wrong* (1934) and Marlene Dietrich in both Borzage's *Destiny* (1936) and Lubitsch's *An*



Cameraman of choice: Lang, standing under camera, during filming of a scene from *Salome* (1953). William Dieterle, upper right, directs; Rita Hayworth stars as *Salome* opposite Stewart Granger (Claudius)

gel (1937). His first film for Mitchell Leisen, *Cradle Song* (1933), starred the German actress Dorothea Wieck, who the studio hoped might be another Dietrich. "She had a face like Dietrich," said Lang.

small-boned but with very sharp features. Von Leisen with one very high key light, far away and with very little or no fill light, which is what gave that fantastic modelling to her cheekbones and eye sockets. We could have done the same thing with Weick, but we wanted a softer effect so we used more fill.

Lang and Leisen were to have a rewarding partnership at the studio ("Mitch had definite ideas about what he wanted. He'd tell me what lens to use... the only thing he didn't control was the lighting. He left that to me and always gave me plenty of time to get what I wanted"). Lang became notorious for his slowness in setting up shots, but results were his justification. On Leisen's *Death Takes a Holiday* (1934), a critical and commercial hit based on Maxwell Anderson's stage fantasy in which Death takes on human form for three days to discover why humans fear him so, Lang's lyrical camerawork and Ernst Fejt's beautiful direction produced a visual masterpiece. Fejt was to tell the writer David Chirichetti years later:

Every so often in the heyday times, a group of compatible people got together on a picture and they were so sensitive and aware of each other's talents that it was wonderful. Mitchell and Charles Lang were an unbeatable combination.

Near the start of the film, when a group of aristocrats arrive at their palazzo, Lang's camera pulls back farther and farther for an elaborate crane shot that precedes the group down an enormous corridor for several minutes until they turn to enter a salon. In order to make *Death* (Freddie March) transparent without resorting to laboratory work, Leisen and Lang duplicated pieces of the set in black velvet, put a mirror in front of March that was only 30 percent silvered so they could shoot through it, then lit up certain portions of the black set which reflected in the mirror superimposed over the actor.

Hathaway's *Peter Ibbetson* (1935) was another fantasy that benefited from the Lang touch, but, like all craftsmanship of the era, he was equally fine in all genres, including action films — *Hathaway's Lives of a Bengal Lancer* (1935); *Souls at Sea* (1937) and *Spawn of the North*

(1939) — and musicals such as the Bing Crosby vehicles *We're Not Dressing* (1934), *Mississippi* (1935) and *Doctor Rhythm* (1938).

He worked with Leisen for the first time since *Death Takes a Holiday* when Claudette Colbert requested him for *Midnight* (1939), the sparkling comedy written by Billy Wilder and Charles Brackett. Lang was one of the few people in Hollywood who claims that Colbert was right in insisting that only the left side of her face be photographed.

The right side of her face had several problems, including a faint deep scar on the right side of her mouth... full face could be all right, if the light came from the left side, but we didn't do it very often.

Lang photographed Colbert in three more Loisen films, *Arise My Love* (1941), *No Time*

for *Love* (1943) and *Practically Yours* (1944). The last was a weak comedy co-starring Fred MacMurray, who told Colbert, "There's one thing wrong with this picture — we're both too damned old for it." In order to make Colbert, nearly 40, look suitably juvenile, Lang used a key light above her head at a sharp angle. Generally the sharper the angle the more flattering the light but we had to be careful that the shadow from the nose didn't run into the mouth. Since Claudette has a flat nose, I could place her key light at a sharp angle without worrying about the shadow on her upper lip. Then I filled it in with a hood but much weaker light so there was still that beautiful modelling on her cheeks.

When he started to freelance, Lang's skill was to make him the choice cameraman of several ladies such as Joan Crawford (*Sudden Fear*, *Female on the Beach*, *Queen Bee* and *Autumn Leaves*), Rita Hay-

# Keith Sword

KEITH SWORD was one of the leading British specialists on contemporary Poland as well as on the history of the Polish diaspora in Britain.

Having completed his PhD thesis in 1982 in Social Anthropology at Sussex University, he became a Research Fellow at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, London University, working on the Polish Migration Project. The project, funded by grants from the M.B. Grabowski Fund, the Leverhulme Foundation and the Federation of Poles in Britain, began in 1982 and produced several substantial publications all authored by Sword: *The Formation of the Polish Community in Great Britain 1939-50* (1989), with Jan Ciechanowski and Norman Davies; *Deportation and Exile: Poles in the Soviet Union 1939-1948* (1994); and *Identity in Flux: the Polish community in Britain* (1996).

Since 1995 the project has concentrated on migration after 1989 and has been concerned with cross-border migration, refugees, repatriates and traders. A further book, edited with Krystyna Iglicka-Okolska, will shortly be published: *The Challenge for Poland of East-West Migration* (1998). This most recent research has sadly been cut off at a point where Sword was breaking new ground and creating new models; he used Poland as a means of understanding future phenomena that may well occur along the borders of the expanded European Union.

In September 1995 he was appointed to a permanent position at the School as Lecturer in Sociology. Since 1988 he was responsible for the organisation of several series of Polish seminars which covered almost every aspect of Polish history, politics, society and culture and brought together members of the school with

those of the Polish community who attended regularly.

Keith Sword will be remembered as a scholar who not only occupied himself with minority fields but who was able to relate his studies to the wider field. He was a scholar with a special interest in Poland rather than one whose interests were limited to Poland. Furthermore, he saw clearly how minority, and often neglected, subjects — such as Poland — underpinned our understanding of the larger (Russia, Germany). He produced pioneering research which will be of lasting value not only in Britain but to Polish scholars working in Poland, because he was able to provide the models and the essential comparative context. As an outsider writing in English he possessed an objectivity often lacking in Polish scholarship. He was unemotional and always fair when dealing with emotive Polish issues.

At the same time he was extraordinarily dedicated to the individuals whom he studied and became personally involved with the concerns of the Polish community. His knowledge of Polish history and his fluency in spoken Polish enabled him to cross cultural barriers and understand another's position. He also enabled him to make use of primary sources: as archives in Poland opened up after the fall of Communism, he was fully equipped to exploit them.

Sword was a great interdisciplinary; his first degree had been in English Literature; he was as much a historian as he was a social anthropologist; his approach to Polish history contributed enormously to our understanding of contemporary Polish problems.

Working in a minority field can be an isolating experience. Keith Sword should be remembered for his conscientiousness, courage and commitment. He was not only committed to his work, but to people: he had an old-fashioned sense of duty to others, as was illustrated by the energy he put into his role as secretary of the SSEES branch of the Association of University Teachers, and by his dedication both to his subject and to his students and colleagues.



Sword: Polish diaspora

Ursula Phillips  
Keith Sword, social anthropologist: born Southampton 26 February 1949; married (one daughter); died Hove, East Sussex 6 April 1998.

# The Rev Professor Norman Whybray

THE DEATH of Norman Whybray has brought to a sudden end the very productive career of one of the senior figures in British Old Testament scholarship. He was already in his forties before his first major scholarly work appeared, but thereafter he managed to write more than 15 scholarly books and numerous articles for which he justly acquired a very high reputation both in Britain and internationally.

Whybray spent over 10 years in Japan, and his first wife was French, but he remained at heart a very English figure. He also remained attached to the 'standards' and values he acquired in his early life, and there were certainly aspects of the



Whybray: wisdom literature

Grammar School. He was at Kettle College, Oxford, during the Second World War, where he read French and then Theology. After ordination training at Lincoln Theological College, he was ordained deacon in the Church of England in 1946, and priest in 1947. He served a curacy at St Michael's, Basingstoke, held teaching posts at General Theological Seminary in New York and at Queen's College, Birmingham, and then in 1952 was appointed Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Central Theological College, Tokyo.

While he and his first wife, Hélène, enjoyed their life in Japan, it was no doubt difficult for him in the circumstances in which he found himself to pursue high-level research, and he returned to Oxford in 1960 for a two-year period to read for a DPhil under Professor Sir Godfrey Driver. The thesis that he prepared was published in 1965 under the title *Wisdom in Proverbs 1-9*, and it was with this publication that he first began to establish his reputation as an Old Testament scholar. He returned permanently to England in 1965 to take up a post as Lecturer in the Department of Theology at Hull University; he was promoted to Reader in 1969 and was appointed Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Studies in 1978.

Whybray's time at Hull was

a particularly fruitful period of his life. His teaching duties were not onerous, and he was able to devote the greater part of his considerable energy to research. His earlier work on Proverbs was followed by a series of studies on the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, including commentaries on Ecclesiastes (1989) and Proverbs (1994). His book *The Intellectual Tradition in the Old Testament* (1974), which offered a radical critique of the views then current concerning the place of wisdom in Israelite society, was especially influential, and it is probably his work on the wisdom literature that represents his most important contribution to the study of the Old Testament.

He did not neglect other areas. He published a number of studies concerned with Isaiah 40-66, including a major commentary (1975), while in his *The Making of the Pentateuch: a methodological study* (1987) he devoted his attention to a topic that is of considerable interest at present. For his contribution to Old Testament scholarship he was awarded the Burkin Medal by the British Academy in 1997.

Whybray was a pillar of the British Society for Old Testament Study, and he was elected its President for 1982. In that same year he took early retirement and moved to Ely, where he stayed for the remainder of his life. Not the least of the rea-

sons that led him to retire early was a reluctance to take on increased administrative duties and a wish to be able to devote all his time to research. In the latter aim he was successful. He continued to be extremely productive as a scholar, and he also found time to edit the series of Old Testament Guides, which are now widely used and are extremely helpful.

Norman Whybray met Hélène Weill at a Student Christian Movement conference in France shortly after the war, and they married in 1948. Her early death in 1978 and that of their adopted son Peter in 1990 were severe blows which profoundly affected him. But by chance he was to meet again

**Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Funerals, etc.)...  
**ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS**...  
**Change of the Guard**...

**Birthdays**  
Mrs Shirley Temple Black, former actress and US ambassador, 70; The Most Rev Michael Bower, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, 88; Mr Bill Cotton, chairman, Noel Coward Television, 72; Mr Antony Craxton, television producer, 80; Mr J.P. Doolittle, writer, 72; Mr Barry Douglas, concert pianist, 38; Sir Desmond Downes, automotive engineer, 76; Mr Leslie French, actor, singer and director, 94; Air Marshal Sir Timothy Gorden, Director, Royal Institute of International Affairs, 54; The Hon Victoria Glendinning, writer, 61; Mr William Hagerty, former Editor, the People, 59; Sir Arnold Hall, former chairman, Hawker Siddeley Group, 83; Sir Russell Hillhouse, Permanent Under-Secretary, Scottish Office, 60; Mr Kevin Jarvis, cricketer, 43; Mr James Kirkup, writer and playwright, 75; Dr Richard Laws, former Master, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, 43; Mr Ronald Neame, film producer and director, 87; Mr Mike Smith, disc jockey, 43; Professor George Steiner, writer and former Professor of Comparative Literature, Oxford University, 69; Sir Herbert Teley, secretary, 90; Miss Tessa Wyatt, actress, 50; Sir Eric Yarrow, former chairman, Clydesdale Bank, 78; Mr Peter Young, High Commissioner to the Bahamas, 59.

**Lectures**  
National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Roads and Ways (iv): An Autumn Landscape with a View of Her Scen", 1pm.  
Victoria and Albert Museums: Catherine Wilson, "The Raphael Cartoons", 2.30pm.  
Tate Gallery: Calina Fox, "Turner's London", 6.30pm.

**Dinners**  
Mary Rose Trust: The Prince of Wales, President, Mary Rose Trust, attended a dinner held yesterday evening on board HMS Victory, Portsmouth. Admiral Sir John Bristock, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Bristock were the hosts.

## LAW REPORT: 23 APRIL 1998

### Sentences passed separately will be aggregated

**Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and another, ex parte François, House of Lords** (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nolan, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hutton) 12 March 1998

WHEN calculating a prisoner's non-parole release date under section 33 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, consecutive sentences imposed on different occasions were to be aggregated.

The House of Lords dismissed the appellant's appeal against the dismissal by the Divisional Court (Law Report, 17 April 1997) of his application for judicial review, challenging the prison authorities' calculation of his release date.

The appellant had been sentenced on 5 August 1993 to a total of 19 months' imprisonment. On 7 January 1994 a different court had sentenced him to a total sentence of four years' imprisonment, consecutive to the sentence of 19 months.

Section 33(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 provided that it was the duty of the Home Secretary in release on licence a short-term prisoner, sentenced to a term of 12 months or more, as soon as he had served half his sentence, and to release on licence a long-term prisoner as soon as he had served two-thirds of his sentence. Section 33(5) provided that a long-term prisoner was one serving a sentence of four years or more, and a short-term prisoner was one serving a sentence of less than four years.

Section 51(2) of the Act provided that for the purposes of any reference in that Part of the Act to a term of imprisonment, consecutive terms and terms which were wholly or partly concurrent should be treated as a single term.

Adrian Fulford QC and Martin Soorjoo (instructed by Breeze Benton & Co) for the appellant; Nigel Fleming QC and Steven Kavvas (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondents.

Lord Slynn said that it was agreed that if the two terms of 19 months and four years were to be treated as a single term, then the appellant's early release date was 19 April 1997. If, on the other hand, the two groups of sentences were to be treated separately, then his calculated release date from the 19-month sentence was 19 May 1994, and that from the four-year sentence was 13 January 1997.

It had been submitted for the appellant that section 51(2) of the 1991 Act as a matter of ordinary language could only be taken as referring to sentences passed on the same occasion, and that the interpretation contended for by the respondents was contrary to principle in that it resulted in a sentence once passed being increased as a result of the prisoner's status being changed on a subsequent sentence.

That argument could not be accepted. In the first place, the language of section 51(2) was clear — terms of imprisonment whether consecutive or concurrent were to be treated as one term for the purposes of Part II of the Act. It was neither necessary nor permissible to read in the words "but only if the sentences are imposed by the same court on the same occasion".

Moreover, the result of a prisoner being converted from a short-term prisoner to a long-term prisoner did not retrospectively increase "the sentence".

What it did was to postpone the period of early release.

It was obviously desirable that a prisoner should be told the potential length of his imprisonment, but there was no difficulty in a judge telling him on sentence that if, before the first sentence was completed, he received a further sentence which brought the total sentence for both offences to four years or more, he would have to serve two-thirds of the total sentence.

It would be a matter for the judge in each case to decide whether the sentence which he otherwise considered appropriate for the second offence should be reduced to allow for the fact that the prisoner would spend extra time in prison in respect of the first offence, because the penalty on the second offence had converted him into a long-term prisoner.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## But they should have told us

BEFORE LABOUR ministers get carried away with the philosophical possibilities of the "Third Way" they might like to get back to some of the basics on which they were elected - openness above all. Whatever its destructive potential in other contexts might be, the five kilograms of highly radioactive nuclear materials that will shortly arrive at Dounreay by US military aircraft from Georgia are more than sufficient to blow a hole in the Government's credibility. Ministers have implied that the transfer and the secrecy surrounding it were both in some way inevitable. That is not quite right. Let us make some basic points.

First, no reasonable person could have any quarrel with the removal of deadly waste from countries like Georgia. It is a good thing that it is leaving that troubled part of the world. Would that less nuclear material were being produced by the dangerous and fragmented leftovers of the Soviet Union's nuclear energy programme. We cannot forget the experience and the lessons from the Chernobyl explosion, the site of which, as this newspaper recently revealed, is increasingly unsafe. The dangers from the installations in the old Eastern bloc are quite as terrifying in their potency as any other environmental or economic threat. Above all we should always have an open mind, an open door and an open wallet when it comes to dealing with this problem. So the Government is right to move the waste.

Second, so long as Dounreay really is a safe holding destination, we do not begrudge this small amount of material arriving in Scotland. The British, the Americans and the French and others should all take more nuclear waste. Of course we should not have to bear all of the burden and there are important questions here that can only be answered by a comprehensive agreement on how the nuclear powers allocate responsibilities and share costs. The fact that American protesters have effectively shifted the problem to us will not be lost on politicians or pressure groups. Third, this material should go to Dounreay only for storage. The permission to re-process the radioactive waste is up to the regulatory authorities. Thus far, we have some anxieties but no disagreement in principle with the Government.

But Parliament should have been told. The Prime Minister says that a statement couldn't be made before but that it would have been made on the day the stuff arrived. Really? Of course, details which would really compromise national security shouldn't be bandied around. But the threat here was less terrorism than a Greenpeace protest dominating BBC television headlines. And that isn't nearly reason enough to hide an important and controversial act of public policy. The only reason the government came to the House of Commons to give a statement is because the local MP, Robert MacLennan, made them do so. The only reason he, his constituents, and the rest of us know anything at all about this affair is because the information became public knowledge via the *New York Post* (not a high circulation figure in the far north of Scotland). There is a simple and overriding obligation on the Government to tell people what is going on. We had thought better of the Government.

The argument deployed by ministers that the material would eventually go towards manufacturing isotopes to be used in the treatment of cancer is somewhat disingenuous. There are stockpiles of uranium from which these could be made already in existence. It was not essential to have this small additional quantity - which was the implication. So what was Tony Blair's motive? Not to treat cancer. He was helping dismantle a dangerous stockpile and doing Bill Clinton a favour at the same time. We don't have a big problem with that. There is nothing reprehensible about helping a friend. Given the efforts that Bill Clinton has put into the Good Friday agreement maybe this very small favour is well worth the while.

But hushing this up was foolish and depressing. It generates suspicion. It makes people think, as Jeremy Paxman put it, "Why is this bastard lying to me?" It raises anxieties in the public mind about what is really going on, which we hoped this still-new government would have calmed. There is a very simple and basic principle here - we have a right to know about the importation of deadly materials into this country. We have a right to debate these things, before it is too late. That right is far more valuable than political philosophy.

## Stirrings of conscience

NOT FOR the first time, Clare Short has decided to stir things up a bit. This time, though, it's only tea. Yesterday the International Development Secretary helped relaunch the Co-Op's 99p brand of tea as an ethical product. Forget caffeine-free, pyramid teabags and Earl Grey, meet clear-conscience tea. Well, there's still nothing better to help place an innovation like this in perspective than a nice cup of tea; so why don't you put the kettle on while we give this one the taste test.

First, consumer politics is to be welcomed and is anyway irresistible. Information, on labels as well as in official documents, is power, and we want more, so we can make fuller choices. Second, let the Government lead: we're not suggesting that Ms Short takes a trolley round Whitehall. We do, however, expect to see ethical tea served in all ministries, mayoral parlours, and, yes, at Labour's Millbank Towers HQ (where they have to pay for their own refreshments nowadays). Tony Benn, who takes his tea by the pint, should be pressed into early adoption of the new brew. Third, though, as ethical consumers, we expect good quality too. Coffee drinkers of a leftist disposition may recall the introduction of various types of weapons-grade Nicaraguan solidarity coffee a few years back. This stuff may have done wonders for the Sandinistas but wasn't nearly so liberating for the drinker. We suspect that times have changed in the conscience business. Nowadays consumers won't put up with what is unpalatable in any sense of the word, so ethical tea will have to pass the taste test. So long as it does, we'll be buyers - sitting back, sipping and enjoying the cup that cheers the conscience too.



MILES KINGSTON

TODAY is National Book Day, which means that everyone is being encouraged to dash out and buy a new book. Well, that is certainly better than staying in and writing a new book, as there are far too many of them around already, but I want to draw attention to a section of the book trade that will get no attention at all today, and that is the second-hand book business.

I believe many people are deterred from going into second-hand bookshops not only because they don't realise what bargains they can find but because they are not sure how to behave once inside. So my mission for National Book Day is to tell you what to do once you are inside a second-hand bookshop. This, then, is the Second-Hand Bookshop Code of Practice for Customers. 1. Enter the shop without saying anything or even looking at the owner. If you do look at the owner, he will not be offering eye contact. He will be reading a book catalogue,

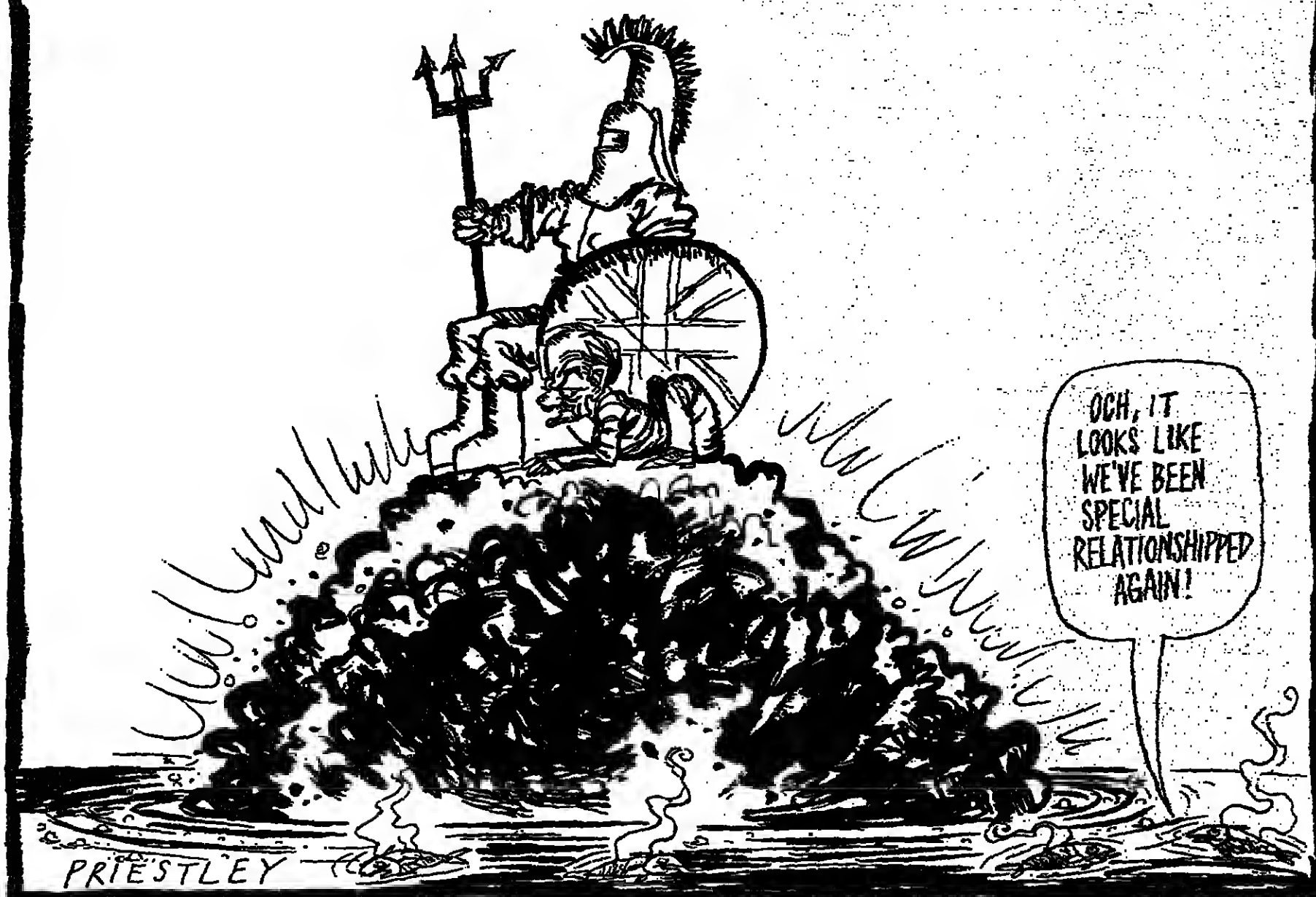
a letter, or a broadsheet newspaper. If he has none of these to hand he may even be reading a book, though with no apparent sign of enjoyment. Anything you offer in the way of a greeting will be unheeded. It is his way of testing you as a potential customer. 2. After ten minutes' unassisted browsing, the owner will admit to himself that you have potential as a customer, and greet you with a curt "Good morning" or "Han-a-no". This last is an approximation of a sound which will act as a greeting in any language - after all, for all the bookseller knows, you may be French or German or even American, and not speak any English at all. 3. You should make no reply. 4. Instead, carry on reading the book you have picked up, as if fascinated. This will convince him that you are indeed a serious customer. 5. When he has abandoned all hope of an answer and gone back to reading his letter/catalogue/paper, suddenly say whatever

he said back to him, then pick up another book to cut off the conversation right there. 6. After half an hour or so, the bookseller's nerve will crack and he will say something else. Nothing about the weather or politics, but one of the three following remarks or questions: a) "Did you know there are some more rooms upstairs?" b) "Did you know there are some more rooms downstairs?" c) "Were you looking for something in particular?" 7. The correct answer to (a) and (b) is to say, "Oh, thanks", and stay exactly where you are. 8. The correct answer to (c) rather depends on your own taste in reading, but the important thing is not to ask for anything he might have. To say "biography" or "travel" is to give up the game immediately. He is bound to have lashings of both, and you will not be able to leave without feeling you

should buy something. Ask for an author or a subject you have already looked for and found no sign of. My favourite responses are "Well, H L Mencken, actually," and "Do you have a humour section?" They very rarely have either. 9. The bookseller, not having any H L Mencken or humour, not even perhaps being quite sure who H L Mencken was, will try to approximate it to something he DOES have. So he will now say something like: "Mencken was American, wasn't he? We've got a good American section. Travel mostly," or "We don't have a humour section as such, but there are some nice cartoon collections on the art shelves, and I believe there are some quite good editions of Jerome K Jerome in the fiction." 10. He is trying to tease more information out of you, hoping you will admit whether you are into written or pictorial humour, or how far you have a taste for Americans.

11. So the correct response is a non-committal "Hmmm". 12. At this point the bookseller will despair of getting anywhere with you, and fall silent. This is the point at which I drift upstairs and, when I am sure I am not being observed, get out of my coat pocket the six or so second-hand books I have brought with me and put them on the shelves. 13. This is because my wife has been pointing out for some time that we have far too many books at home. I cannot bring myself to throw a book away. There are many books which not even Oxford or a school jumble sale will take. The only course of action is to secrete them on to the shelves of a second-hand bookshop, by the above method. 14. I do not, of course, buy anything. 15. Can you imagine what the wife would say if I came back with more books? Hope this is of some help. Have a nice National Book Day!

## FOOL, BRITANNIA



### Sanctions on Iraq

DEREK FATCHETT'S letter justifying sanctions against Iraq (22 April) was revealing. On the day when the Foreign Office published its human rights report as part of its "ethical" foreign policy, it is worth noting the curious logic of the Minister of State's ethical beliefs.

According to him the mere act of blaming somebody else for conditions which arise in part from his own actions leaves him with clean hands. This is the argument that the US and UK governments have been using for years - blame Saddam and it becomes ethical to maintain the genocidal sanctions regime on the Iraqi people.

Whatever one does leaves one with a moral responsibility for the consequences. It was entirely predictable that Saddam would rather see his people starve than comply with what he considers a US dictate. He has been torturing and murdering his people for twenty years. The UK government, as one of the principal supporters of sanctions, does hold some responsibility for the 1 million or more deaths in Iraq.

Mr Fatchett also neglects to mention that the UN sanctions committee has blocked Iraqi attempts to import numerous items since 1991. This does not mean that every member of the committee opposed particular export applications, rather that either the US and the UK chose to oppose these applications. The "Red List" of proscribed articles includes: light bulbs, socks, wristwatches, ovens, needles, nails and refrigerators. Other items vetoed have included baby food, rice, blankets, pencils, soap, sanitary towels, water purification chemicals, medical journals and medical swabs. The mind boggles at how the Foreign Office might define these items as contributing to Iraq's weapons programmes. The obvious answer is that the US and the UK are waging an economic war on Iraq which goes far beyond the requirements of cease-fire resolution 687.

SIMON FAULKNER  
Committee Against Repression and for Democratic Rights in Iraq  
Manchester

### Low pay for dons

THE PLAINTIVE plea by Mr Burgess, the past president of the Association of University Teachers, will of course fall on deaf ears, like all such other pleas over the last decade or so (letter, 21 April). How many more years will it take for him and his colleagues to realise that government funding is synonymous with underfunding? If there were any extra funds they would go to the genuinely needy.

Undoubtedly, university teachers are poorly paid and that will be increasingly reflected in the quality of people entering the profession. The only hope is new money and that new money must come from the main beneficiaries, the students.

Mr Burgess talks of price sensitivity. There are no prices in higher education. All is Mickey Mouse money and there can be no progress until the true cost of higher education, including that of greatly enhanced salaries for university teachers, is known and charged. It is for government then to decide how far it is prepared to underfund the student body. In those circumstances, the votes of a million students will count rather more than those of a handful of disaffected academics. It is time for the AUT to wake up to *realpolitik*.  
Professor Sir GRAHAM HILLS  
Inverness

### Safeguard the Downs

YOUR COVERAGE highlights the Countryside Commission officials' bizarre view that the South Downs only need the minimal protection of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (report, 20 April).

Unlike almost all other councils in the area, Brighton and Hove council went to a great deal of trouble and expense to consult with its residents on the future of the South

Downs. The outcome was to emphatically support National Park status, which would bring enhanced protection and better funding. Incredibly, the commission officials have decided not to give any extra weight to submissions from councils that consulted with their residents.

There are two last opportunities to overturn the officials' views. On Thursday the commissioners of the Countryside Commission will make their decision - we challenge them to listen to public opinion rather than that of their officials. If they do not they will surely bring further into question the relevance of this unelected quango. Finally, Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment, could make the very bold move of ignoring their advice and granting National Park status for the benefit of visitors and local residents alike.

DESTURNER MP  
(Brighton Kemptown, Lab)  
DAVID LEPPER MP  
(Brighton Pavilion, Lab)  
House of Commons

### Studying human remains

THE Natural History Museum has within its collections items from human remains, the majority of which are ancient archaeological material from the UK. We also have a small amount of material from the rest of the world ("Museum urged to reveal grisly secrets", 17 April).

Our holding of material from Australia and Tasmania consists of 161 items, which includes skulls, partial or complete skeletons and fragmentary pieces. None of these specimens is stored in spirit ("pickled"). The Museum has documentation on all of these, but because they were donated by individuals and other institutions this information is not always as full as is desirable under modern museum standards. The Museum has done, and is doing, all in its power to enhance the relevant

information on these specimens. Museum staff handle the collections with special care and sensitivity and access to the museum's human origin collections is always granted to bona fide scientists carrying out research on human variation and origins.

The World Archaeological Congress requested access to our records of Aboriginal remains in 1991-2, and we co-operated in checking details concerning our collections within the palaeontology department. On 8 April we received a request from the World Archaeological Congress for information to be provided by 27 April, which we will supply.

Any formal governmental requests for the return of these collections are considered individually. However, the Museum is governed by the British Museum Act, under which statute it is required to retain and conserve its collections.

Dr NEIL CHALMERS  
Director  
The Natural History Museum,  
London SW7

### Sign for the deaf

JEFF McWHINNEY, Chief Executive of the British Deaf Association, makes valid points about the potential disruption resulting from any attempt at registration as a trademark of the "handshape" symbol for a telephone (letter, 6 April).

We fully recognise its importance as a recognised symbol for the deaf. Although we have been using the symbol for years in our advertising, let me assure him that BT has no plans to constrain the use of this common gesture. On the contrary, we welcome its unrestricted use, as I am sure everyone else does.  
RUPERT GAVIN  
Managing Director, Consumer  
Division  
British Telecom  
London EC1

### Man-made floods

THE CATASTROPHIC floods should come as no surprise. We've drained the farming countryside to death, and sealed the surface of every town and city. Now we are threatening to make things even worse, with much more, impervious development on "brownfield" sites in cities.

In addition, there is a five-year programme currently under way with £850m for increasing the size of stormwater sewers. This is likely to make the flooding much worse in rivers just downstream.

Our trees and woodlands play a vital role in holding back rainwater on their leaves, but they are falling fast, as cable TV treaches chop through the roots, and chemical pollution speeds their decline.

We need to promote a policy of porous cities: to use the projected building of 4.4 million new homes as a means of reducing, rather than aggravating, the problem of stormwater flooding. Urban forestry, soak-aways and porous paving could do much to make our towns and cities more sustainable.  
CHRIS BAINES  
Wolverhampton

### Gays and the church

THE Rev Neil Dawson's claim (letter, 20 April) that biblical condemnation of homosexuality is not "clear-cut" is a confusing one: I fail to see what could be more clear-cut than, for example, "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman: that is detestable" (Leviticus 18:22).  
CRAIG ANDERSON  
Edinburgh

EDWARD CONDRIY is wrong to suggest that George Michael would have been arrested had he been straight (letter, 20 April). Police officers have around gay meeting-places waiting to arrest gay men who engage in sexual behaviour in public. Rarely is any complainant produced as a witness, other than the police officers involved. When did you last hear of police staking out lovers' lanes, waiting for the heterosexual fun to begin?  
STEPHEN BAKER  
London E15

## The silences that speak volumes - how to survive in a second-hand bookshop



## Robin Cook reveals a sad lack of passion for the Third Way



ANNE  
McELVOY

ON LABOUR'S NEW  
PHILOSOPHER

CATCHING sight of the coveting nymphs in James Barry's imposing Georgian masterpiece, *The Progress of Human Culture and Knowledge*, at the Royal Society of Arts, the Foreign Secretary looked rather bemused. Timetabling difficulties caused by his *deuxièmes notes* accounted for the stimulating location. This discommodation alone could not however explain why Robin Cook appeared to have undergone a political character transplant and become Tony Blair.

His speech yesterday on New Labour's Third Way was full of Blairite dualisms – responsibilities came with their rights in tow, globalization would make nations "interdependent and independent" simultaneously. There was an ungraspable smoothness about this performance quite unsuited to Robin Cook, a rough-edged politician who usually manages to annoy someone in the course of a major pronouncement.

But this was no mistake by New Labour's central casting. Mr Cook was given this anniversary platform as a mark of both Mr Blair's regard and a slight nervousness about his colleague. He very much wants to keep him where he is now – having acquired that rare thing for a post-war Labour government, a Foreign Secretary who does not divide the party as David Owen, Tony Croland, George Brown, Ernest Bevin and even (as a cypher of Harold Wilson over Vietnam) Michael Stewart did in their various ways.

The Third Way – now official Blairite terminology – is hallmarked by its claims to equidistance between two previously existing models, both of which the Government is keen to be seen to reject. It is, said Mr Cook, "a political project as distinct from the individualist politics of neo-liberalism as it is distinct from the corporate ethos of old-fashioned social democracy". Later, he helpfully identified the first category as the governing principle of the Thatcher years.

But it is not true that New Labour is as far removed from the first category as from the second. A passing Martian would recognise that the Government's actions, rather than its calibrated words, show it to be far closer to civic conservatism than to social democracy. The Third Way is a rhetorical device to avoid owning up to this.

Labour's centre of gravity has shifted. Otherwise, Mr Cook would have been delivering his speech at the Scottish TUC conference, where they have a rather different idea of the Third Way from that of the Social Market Foundation, the bracingly pro-market think-tank which hosted Mr Cook's lecture.

The sleight of hand is not new – the Tories also performed it by boasting of being neo-

liberal free market, individualistic hard lads. In fact, the Tory government, under both Thatcher and Major's leadership, was mildly authoritarian and – for all its declared hostility to the state – used its machinery relentlessly to achieve social change. The National Curriculum was a collectivist straight-jacket. The Child Support Agency provided the biggest single interventionist act by government since National Insurance. A good thing too – but it is rich to hear the people who introduced it priding themselves on having pursued the retreat of the state.

Test Mr Cook's propositions about the equidistance on the policies of Labour's first year and the well is torn apart. David Blunkett's insistence that parents take more responsibility for their children's education is an individualistic instinct.

Jack Straw is as tough on crime as Michael Howard – he just has a better manner. The emphasis on individual responsibility inherent in Welfare to Work similarly chimes with Tory instincts. The main point of disagreement now is about the potential distortion of the labour market as a result of the New Deal, not about the intention.

Mr Cook's Third Way, constructed as it was on these false antitheses, was forced to dress up every minor achievement as a great leap forward. His foreign policy was redressing our "international isolation". Were the Single European Act, the Maastricht Treaty and the dispatch of troops to Bosnia agreed by a government modelling itself on Erzer Hoxha's Albania?

In his heart, and more importantly in his formidable brain, Mr Cook surely knows that the Third Way should mean more than this. He is a true constitutional radical but I was struck by the deadness of his language when he spoke of constitutional reform. Yet it is this, rather than any First, Second or even Third Way that will really define the success of this government. Mr Cook lacked the gut conviction of the man who fought so long and hard for a Scottish parliament and to make Westminster more accountable to the regions.

His attacks on hereditary peerage in opposition were those of a true, street-fighting democrat determined to destroy the vestige of aristocratic rule. Now, he promises that the Government would "deliver on this reform", as if it were just another item on the pledge list. Does he feel no urgency, no passion about this at all?

After the lecture, he fielded awkward questions, joking, "these sessions are circuit training for politicians". But the thing about circuits is that they go round and round. I can't believe that Mr Cook is content to do that for the rest of his career.

He can do the job of Foreign Secretary – the weaselly part of it comes more easily to him than one would have thought. But in the end, Mr Cook belongs somewhere else – at the heart of the constitutional realignment of the United Kingdom. His own Third Way should be the extension of Scottish devolution as successor to Donald Dewar. He would be a formidable advocate of Scotland's interests against Westminster – including the need for tax-raising powers.

Mr Cook's occasional ability to find trouble on the West Bank is as nothing compared to the trouble he might cause Number Ten from Edinburgh. Less biddable than Mr Dewar and far more ambitious for the Scottish parliament – it is no wonder Mr Blair intends to keep him on a treadmill elsewhere.

## How the Home Secretary could cut burglary at a stroke: legalise drugs



DAVID  
AARONOVITCH  
THE HIDDEN COSTS  
OF PROHIBITION

THE Very Senior Policeman was in love with Jack Straw. We lent across the High Table at X College, our faces close together, and he told me how the Blackburn MP was set to become the greatest Home Secretary of the century. "He does the right things, you see?" said the ruddy-faced Chief Constable. "He's not an ideologue. If it works, he's interested in it." So we toasted Jack in red wine and port. Who needs Lodge Night and funny handshakes when you've got Oxbridge colleges?

But what about the legalisation of drugs? I asked. Not just cannabis (I do not think that I know a single person who has not smoked dope) but the nasty, hard stuff? "Oh, I give it five years," he replied breezily, and with complete confidence. "There is no future in prohibition. All my colleagues seem to be persuaded of the need to change. It's got to come."

The contradiction here is not difficult to spot. There is no sign whatsoever that Jack Straw is prepared to back down from the eternal, unsuccessful war against drugs. His equation seems very simple: drugs harm those who take them, and those who have to live with the users. Giving up on the battle would be to invite the next generation to regard heroin and cocaine as being the millennial versions of alcohol and tobacco. But here was a progressive top cop who was arguing that just such a move was inevitable.

Well, yesterday there was a long feature in the *London Evening Standard* about yet another drug bust team. "Last year," it said, "the inspectors recorded 134 hits, finding a total of 1,747 kilos of heroin... 135 more kilos than last year." I think this was supposed to be good news, but was it? Did these seizures entail fewer addicts on our streets, or were they themselves the proximate cause of many of our houses being burgled?

The same ambiguity hung over Tuesday's Home Office survey on the link between drug-taking and criminality. This study – of arrestees who agreed to be tested – showed that two-thirds had taken illegal drugs (and a quarter had drunk alcohol) in the period leading up to their detention. The results varied from place to place, but overwhelmingly indicated a much more direct and constant



'Legal heroin would be cheaper and safer'

MSJ

link than had been expected. But what was the study really telling us? It could have been saying that just taking drugs makes you commit crime (you know, crazed crack addict runs amok, that kind of thing). Or it might have been trying to shout out a more difficult message, namely that it is the prohibition of drugs which itself creates all these burglaries, muggings and assaults.

The Home Office estimates that, at the moment, 130,000 users need around £1.3bn every year to fund their habits (that's £10,000 per annum per user). Roughly £850m of this must be raised

sesame snack things that are made in Poland. So every time some heroic customs employee digs another dodgy package out of the wheel arch of a Mondeo, it probably means several more house-breakings.

All this failure comes despite an immensely costly police campaign, a soaring prison population and (in America at least) the virtual criminalisation of an entire generation of black youth. And I haven't even mentioned the filip that keeping drugs illegal – because of the immense profits available – gives to organised crime and violent gangsterism.

### Do drug seizures entail fewer addicts on our streets, or are they themselves the cause of our houses being burgled

from criminal activity to keep the users going. And – also according to the Home Office – these users would need to nick £2.5bn worth of yours and my worldly goods in order to get that £850m.

Part of the problem is that they have to raise so much: £850m is the famous "street" price. It is the price that is paid once the drug barons and middlemen have taken their vast cut, and paid off their enforcers, couriers and bent officials. The drugs themselves are worth the tiniest fraction of that amount. Mostly grown in the Third World, their cost to the consumer – were they completely legal – would (allowing for tax) almost certainly be on a par with those

Personally I am not too interested in the libertarian argument for legalisation, save to admit that there is something in the argument that interfering too much in what people choose to do to themselves will often lead to bad law. My own take on this is strictly utilitarian. Might we be able significantly to reduce crime and also to reduce the damage to people caused by drug-taking, if we abandoned the prohibitive strategy?

Such evidence as we have is hotly contested, and largely consists of the famous Amsterdam experiment, in which a number of coffee-houses have been licensed to sell smallish amounts of hash to customers. Some claim that the in-

cidence of drug taking has risen with decriminalisation, and others that it has actually reduced. The latest report, by the Dutch Centre for Drug Research and released this week, supports the latter contention. It suggests that the use of marijuana may actually have declined by nearly half, and is far lower than in the US, where the drug is prohibited.

Why might such a reduction happen? It seems only logical that if drugs were cheaper and could be used openly, more kids would take them. This unimpeachable logic has always been the greatest argument against any kind of let up in the drugs war. But it is possible that the coffee-shops, limited in number though they are, have effectively replaced street and school sales, and with them the myriad tiny contacts between the young customer and the local supplier. Thus the pressure and occasion to take drugs may have been reduced.

In the long term, then, the question may not be whether to legalise, but rather exactly what form it should take. One possibility – a sci-fi scenario – would be to place drugs on an equal footing with other commercial products. We could nip along to the Megastore and buy the latest Rolf Harris CD and a packet of own-label smoke ("He's the man who brought you low-cost pensions. And now Richard Branson brings you Weirly Beards, the ultimate in relaxing weed...").

This is not an attractive proposition when applied to cocaine or heroin, although it might well work for ecstasy and cannabis. But if hard drugs were purchasable over the counter at pharmacies, and the prices were a reasonable reflection of the costs to the companies to manufacture them and maintain strict quality, there would be no pushers, and no criminal multiplier effect. Indeed, a successful and sustained public information campaign, as there has been over cigarettes or drink-driving, might well reduce use substantially.

Now, the greatest Home Secretary of the century seems unwilling to think in this way yet; the political and international obstacles are immense. But we are in 1998, and if he would like to be the greatest Home Secretary of the next century, then he might just like to listen to what his [adoring] Chief Constables are already telling him: legalise.

View from Here, Education+

## The oh-so-cool squirrels of Dulwich Park ...

JOHN  
WALSH



YOU might have seen a number of dissembling references to the Spencer family in the papers recently, suggesting that they're a pack of grasping and mercenary opportunists who think nothing of converting their royal connections into hard cash. Not a hit of it, according to Amanda Foreman, the young Oxford historian who has written a life of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire. Ms Foreman who, as well as being the finest royal historian since JH Plumb and the daughter of Carl Foreman (who wrote the screenplays to *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, *High Noon* and *Born Free*), and being cruelly beautiful (I once watched her in a south London pub fending off two importunate young smoothies by telling them she was a tabloid journalist) is a woman of some resourcefulness. On starting her researches into the life of the Duchess – who was the Princess Diana *des jours* with her eating disorders – and her "people's duchess" reputation – Ms Foreman discovered that her subject's letters were scattered all over the kingdom. She would have to embark on a kind of royal progress to investigate them all. She had never learned to drive, in fact she'd failed her test six times, but took it once more and passed, and set off on an 18-month circuit of England, looking the archives of stately homes for letters, documents and paintings. In doing so, she discovered that the various archives operate a tariff system. "All scholars get charged for access to the family papers," she

told me, "which is only fair since the home owners have to employ an archivist. But they vary a great deal. Looking at the papers of the Marquis of Lansdowne at Bowood House costs you £100 a day. At Castle Howard, it's £30 a week. At Chatsworth they charge £50 a week plus VAT, but they gave me a special flat rate". Top of the range, however, was the Spencer family. "They couldn't have been nicer. Not only did they not charge a cent for looking at the stuff, they brought me tea on a silver tray."

I can understand the concern voiced by animal welfare workers at the Moors Valley Country Park in Dorset. They've discovered that the park's squirrels have acquired some shocking habits. They now routinely pick up discarded fag-ends, tear the paper off and eat the tobacco. Even worse, some of the little lighters have started attacking picnickers who fail to offer them crumbs and scraps.

Nasty – but this is only the nursery slopes of Squirrel Delinquency. Down in south London, we're inured to far worse behaviour by arboreal rodents. I first saw a couple of them doing the cigarette-butt thing in my garden mooms ago; instead of eating the tobacco, they were rolling it up in a blue Rizla paper. A week later, one of them appeared in the morning with terrible bags under his eyes and held a hillyard cue at a weary angle. Soon, you could hardly walk through Dulwich Park without encountering half a dozen shift-

less members of the *sciurus* family hanging out by the railings on the corner of the pond, taking the piss out of the starlings. Most of them had become long-term and discerning smokers (Camel Straights rather than Marlboro Lights) and if you looked under the lime tree by the bandstand, you could find a cache of tiny Trident's Extra cans, the ones with the pictures of hushy-tailed females in abbreviated underwear. The Dulwich Squirrel Chapter ("Nuts to the World") is their arrogant boast) now hoard dubious-looking white rocks, and will approach your outstretched fingers only if you've made an appointment by mobile phone. They still scurry nervously across the path at the approach of humans, but now they crash into the rubbish bins (it's the Calvin Klein shades). And the Dorset picnickers should think themselves lucky they only get a nip on the ankle from habit-crazed squirrels. In SE21, they nick your car keys, scurry into your Mondeo and cruise up Herne

Hill looking for trouble. I blame the parents.

Having returned from holiday a while ago, I'm still puzzled by one thing. Sicilians are famously the worst drivers in the world – you cannot drive at 100kph down the superstradas of the south-east without encountering, every few miles, a mad local person reversing his Fiat Uno from a slip road into your path. But more interestingly, they're bewilderingly keen on overtaking. They overtake on blind corners, on the crest of enormous hills, on tiny narrow roads that wind round the vertiginous hills of Ragusa. When crawling in an impatient line behind a wheezing truck, they abandon all the accepted protocol of queuing to overtake – at any moment, one will break ranks and roar past 12 Alfes and Lamborghinis in order to pass the truck at the front. It's something to do with machismo, I believe...

Or is it? I have this theory about people who drive on the right in hot countries. Most of them, by the law of averages, will be right-handers. In their heads, the two sides of the brain will be operating by their usual cracked logic: the left will take care of the intellectual and linguistically expressive bits of life, while the right will be more concerned with three-dimensional, spatial ways of seeing the world. For a right-hander driving in a right-hand lane, his perceptions will be unusually spatial and non-verbal, ie he will be entirely at home on the right, just looking at the

scenery, but be entirely unable to explain why. Then what happens? He finds himself behind a slow-moving hired car (with me inside) stuck behind a juggernaut with Brussels licence plates. His spatial awareness – his view of the hills, his governing of perspective – is suddenly, enragingly, occluded by some foreign halfwit and a fat Belgian in a string vest. He cannot stay behind these people. The right side of his brain is working overtime, fighting for mastery. So, disdaining all rules, logic and oncoming traffic, he overtakes – and in crossing over to the left-hand side of the road, he discovers the little-used verbal faculty of the brain's left side. This is why he yells "la fan culo" at you, while thundering by. He doesn't hate you. He's following a basic impulse of the conscious mind. In Britain, meanwhile, because you drive on the left, the impulses of right-hand drivers will be mainly verbal. That's why you spend so much time chatting to yourself, and vocalising about the Wonderbra advertisements on Vauxhall Bridge, and shouting abuse at Mr Jack Cunningham on Radio Four. And why, when you steer into the right-hand lane to overtake someone, you're suddenly overwhelmed by a sense of boundless wide-open space, which sends you smartly back into the left-hand lane, telling yourself, Christ, that was a bit of a narrow squeak.

There now: the theory of European traffic, explained at last. I expect a call from the Department of Transport any day now.

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## First steps to a pan-European defence group



### OUTLOOK

ON THE BIG PRIZE IN AEROSPACE, THE PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE AT LIFTE, AND A RETAILER'S EXPLANATIONS FOR DISAPPOINTING TRADING

THE restructuring of Europe's defence and aerospace industries is at last beginning to take shape, albeit at the snail-like pace of a military marching band. The latest piece of the jigsaw fell into place yesterday as GKN teamed up with the French and Germans to build a new generation of "battlefield taxis". Production of land fighting vehicles is a business where Europe has long suffered from chronic overcapacity with more than a dozen manufacturers chasing a shrinking procurement programme.

Of itself yesterday's deal will not automatically produce the much needed rationalisation. But so big is the contract - 7,500 vehicles worth £3.6bn - that it could easily suck the life force from those left on the outside, obliging them to either join the party or self-destruct.

Meanwhile, in military helicopters, Michael Heseltine's dream looks like coming true 12 years after he stormed out of Cabinet with Westland and Agusta of Italy at last talking about a merger.

Even the biggest prize - the creation of a single pan-European aerospace and defence company encompassing British Aerospace, Daimler and Aerospaciale along with the Spanish, Italians and Swedes, no longer appears such a lost cause. The

French have yet to cross the Rubicon and accept that this behemoth will only see the light of day if they privatise their own industry first. Yet real progress has been made, not least the agreement by all parties that merging their assets into one fighting unit is the way forward.

Has Lord Simpson broken ranks by splashing out £300m on an US defence acquisition and making no secret that GEC has plenty of firepower left to take out an even bigger American target? Certainly, he has grown frustrated with the lack of progress in rationalising Europe's defence electronics industry. But GEC's transatlantic adventure could be just the kick in the pants its Continental counterparts need, reminding them that European consolidation is not the only game in town.

### Liffe's messy compromise

AFTER two days of talking turkey, the board of Liffe has actually managed to agree something. This is no mean achievement, for the problem with the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange is that it has traditionally

and necessarily been run on the basis of consensus; the result has been paralysis in decision making and an inability to change.

By Liffe's standards, the package of proposals announced yesterday are radical indeed; the question is whether they are radical enough, given the inroads the German screen-based trading systems run out of Frankfurt have been making into Liffe's core products and markets. To be fair, the board does seem to have gone some of the distance, but the key issue of separating ownership from membership is ducked. This is being left to "further analysis". The result is that the market will continue to be owned largely by members who trade on the floor of the exchange.

At the moment, the market is run rather in the nature of a club, which provides non-profit-making services to its members. So the first thing the board intends to do is to introduce the profit motive. In future the market will be run on commercial lines. A £44m cut in expenditure and 130 redundancies have already been announced. Perhaps more important, the board says you won't have to be a member or own shares to use the planned electronic trading system. Access will be granted in return for subscriptions set at "competitive market rates".

However, in an inexplicable piece of fudge, the exchange adds this will need to be done through the intermediation of members. Progress has been made, but Liffe seems to have stopped short of going the whole hog. Another messy compromise, then. The Deutsche Terminbörse must be loving it.

### Poor excuses from DFS

THE RETAIL sector has treated the markets to some pretty rich excuses for its poor trading over the last six months, but Sir Graham Kirkham of DFS Furniture broke new ground yesterday with some absolute corkers. In addition to the usual suspects such as hot weather last August, the death of Princess Diana and the effect of higher interest rates, we now have self-assessment tax forms and the wrong kind of rain.

The tax forms made a difference, Sir Graham says, because the deadline for their return to the Inland Revenue was 31 January, just before the end of DFS's half year. The thinking here is that people who would otherwise have nipped out and bought a sofa had to earmark the

money to settle their tax bill instead.

As for the weather, Britain did not so much have the wrong kind of rain over Easter, simply too much of it. Sir Graham says that a third of DFS stores are in the Midlands, the area that was worst affected. Customers often drive for up to half an hour to reach their local DFS, the company claims. With the weather so grotty most decided not to chance it.

The odd thing here is that we have not heard similar excuses from the rest of the sector. Rivals such as Courts and Uno seem to be performing well regardless of the weather or tax bills.

What is clear is that after all its early successes, DFS has not managed its recent tendency to disappoint particularly well. Last October's trading update was hopelessly optimistic while the first profit warning in March came just weeks after an upbeat analyst's jaunt.

All this may not bother Sir Graham and his family much, of course, as they have reduced their stake in the business to just 8 per cent. The cleverest sellers were his two children. They got 533p for their shares 18 months ago, almost twice dad's average selling price. Still, filling in the tax forms can't have been so much fun.

### £1m takeover sweetener pledged to Caradon chief

JURGEN HINZ, chief executive-elect of Caradon, the building products group, will receive a payoff of more than £1m if the company is taken over within the first year of his tenure. Caradon's annual report reveals that Mr Hinz's contract contains a clause entitling him to compensation for loss of office of 27 months' salary and benefits in the first year, falling to 18 months in the second year and 12 months in the third, a spokesman said yesterday. Mr Hinz, a US citizen who is seconded to the company from Caradon, Inc, has been offered a three-year contract which will give him an annual remuneration package of £450,000. Caradon denied suggestions that the contract was in breach of corporate governance rules on the length of directors' contracts.

### Cadcentre shares slump

SHARES in Cadcentre, the plant design software company, lost a third of their value yesterday after the firm warned that its results for the year to 31 March would be below market expectations. The shares plunged 140p to 265p.

However, Cadcentre said the profits would be substantially higher than the £1.77m it reported last year. The company said a shortfall in sales in the Far East in the final quarter, which is traditionally its strongest trading period, had caused the results to fall below market forecasts. Trade in the Far East and Japan contributed nearly 13 per cent of revenues in 1997.

### £25m for Game founder

Neil Taylor, one of the co-founders of Game, the entertainment software retailer which confirmed plans for a stockmarket listing yesterday, will realise around £25m from the float. Mr Taylor invested around £1m in the company when it started in 1990. He holds a 48.5 per cent stake in the group, which is expected to be valued at more than £100m, and will sell half his holding. Game is raising £10m from the float to fund new store openings. It currently has 70 outlets but has set a target of 120.

### JJB keeps growing

JJB SPORTS, one of Britain's leading sports retailers, yesterday dismissed claims that the branded sportswear market was slowing down and said it would continue with its store opening programme. However, the group revealed a sharp slowdown in same store sales growth to 3 per cent in current trading, compared to more 15 per cent during the year. JJB shares, which have fallen dramatically in the past six weeks, edged 16.5p higher to 537.5p on the sales figures, which were not as bad as the market had expected. Profits rose by 68 per cent to £34m on sales up 56 per cent to £203m.

### Carlton invests in Internet

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS, Michael Green's media group, yesterday announced plans to set up a business specialising in the Internet. Carlton will invest about £20m in Carlton Online, which create new internet businesses as well as managing Carlton's existing web sites. The company has hired Carol Dukes, formerly joint managing director of Emap Online, to run the operation.

### Siemens cautions

THE GERMAN electronics giant Siemens warned yesterday that it may not hit its profit target of DM3bn after unveiling what analysts regarded as a poor set of interim figures. Net income for the six months to 31 March rose by 10 per cent to DM1.18bn compared with expectations of DM1.28bn. Siemens also cautioned that profit growth for the remainder of the year would be hit by the downturn in Asia, where new orders fell by 11 per cent in the first half, and the collapse in chip prices. It has also been affected by teething troubles with a new design of gas turbines on order to several electricity generators, including National Power.

### Banking for the poor

THE BANK of Scotland said it was looking into providing banking services for the "financially excluded" - people who are denied access to standard bank accounts. The BoS, which yesterday announced a 11 per cent rise in profits to £142m, also tried to play down acquisition hopes. Investment column, page 22.

### Housing still recovering

THE HOUSING market is continuing its gentle recovery, according to the Building Societies Association. Net mortgage lending by building societies fell between February and March, from £741m to £650m. But Adrian Coles, the BSA's director general, said: "This is more likely to be a result of month on month fluctuations rather than any worrying trend." Separately, Cheltenham & Gloucester said the cost of buying a home would peak in December 1998, causing home owners to spend £33 out of every £100 of take-home pay on their mortgage. That compares to £70 per £100 in the late 1980s.

### Axa new business up 12pc

AXA SUN LIFE, the top-five insurer formed from last year's merger of Axa Equity & Law and Sun Life, yesterday unveiled a 12 per cent boost to new business. Despite upheavals caused by the merger, new premiums rose to £102.2m from £91.4m on the back of a boom in single premium savings products. However, regular premiums barely rose in the face of stiff competition, up from £47.7m to £49.5m.

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Dividen



## DEREK PAIN

**Martin with a Northrop strike.**  
SBC Warburg and Lehman  
Brothers were among those

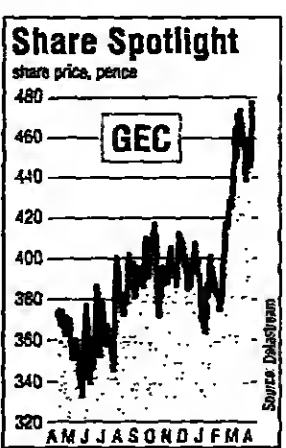
House of Fraser's revamp  
of its Kensington store.  
Barkers, added 5p to 156.5p

340 - **F** **SOURCE**  
320  
AMJJASONDJFMA

second largest cable group in Britain, agreed a £649m cash and shares takeover of GEC, the

res traded. It is scoring from financial difficulties its main rival has encountered.

**HEWETSON**, a building materials group, is attracting interest. The shares rose 6.5p to 156.5p, a peak. Talk of a bid is in the air. A year ago the price was 75.5p.



**\$2 week**      **\$2 week**      **\$2 week**      **\$2 week**      **\$2 week**

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391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
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/729	10/730	10/731	10/732	10/733	10/734	10/735	10/736	10/737	10/738	10/739	10/740	10/741	10/742	10/743	10/744	10/745	10/746	10/747	10/748	10/749	10/750	10/751	10/752	10/753	10/754	10/755	10/756	10/757	10/758	10/759	10/760	10/761	10/762	10/763	10/764	10/765	10/766	10/767	10/768	10/769	10/770	10/771	10/772	10/773	10/774	10/775	10/776	10/777	10/778	10/779	10/780	10/781	10/782	10/783	10/784	10/785	10/786	10/787	10/788	10/789	10/790	10/791	10/792	10/793	10/794	10/795	10/796	10/797	10/798	10/799	10/800	10/801	10/802	10/803	10/804	10/805	10/806	10/807	10/808	10/809	10/810	10/811	10/812	10/813	10/814	10/815	10/816	10/817	10/818	10/819	10/820	10/821	10/822	10/823	10/824	10/825	10/826	10/827	10/828	10/829	10/830	10/831	10/832	10/833	10/834	10/835	10/836	10/837	10/838	10/839	10/840	10/841	10/842	10/843	10/844	10/845	10/846	10/847	10/848	10/849	10/850	10/851	10/852	10/853	10/854	10/855	10/856	10/857	10/858	10/859	10/860	10/861	10/862	10/863	10/864	10/865	10/866	10/867	10/868	10/869	10/870	10/871	10/872	10/873	10/874	10/875	10/876	10/877	10/878	10/879	10/880	10/881	10/882	10/883	10/884	10/885	10/886	10/887	10/888	10/889	10/890	10/891	10/892	10/893	10/894	10/895	10/896	10/897	10/898	10/899	10/900	10/901	10/902	10/903	10/904	10/905	10/906	10/907	10/908	10/909	10/910	10/911	10/912	10/913	10/914	10/915	10/916	10/917	10/918	10/919	10/920	10/921	10/922	10/923	10/924	10/925	10/926	10/927	10/928	10/929	10/930	10/931	10/932	10/933	10/934	10/935	10/936	10/937	10/938	10/939	10/940	10/941	10/942	10/943	10/944	10/945	10/946	10/947	10/948	10/949	10/950	10/951	10/952	10/953	10/954	10/955	10/956	10/957	10/958	10/959	10/960	10/961	10/962	10/963	10/964	10/965	10/966	10/967	10/968	10/969	10/970	10/971	10/972	10/973	10/974	10/975	10/976	10/977	10/978	10/979	10/980	10/981	10/982	10/983	10/984	10/985	10/986	10/987	10/988	10/989	10/990	10/991	10/992	10/993	10/994	10/995	10/996	10/997	10/998	10/999	10/1000	10/1001	10/1002	10/1003	10/1004	10/1005	10/1006	10/1007	10/1008	10/1009	10/1010	10/1011	10/1012	10/1013	10/1014	10/1015	10/1016	10/1017	10/1018	10/1019	10/1020	10/1021	10/1022	10/1023	10/1024	10/1025	10/1026	10/1027	10/1028	10/1029	10/1030	10/1031	10/1032	10/1033	10/1034	10/1035	10/1036	10/1037	10/1038	10/1039	10/1040	10/1041	10/1042	10/1043	10/1044	10/1045	10/1046	10/1047	10/1048	10/1049	10/1050	10/1051	10/1052	10/1053	10/1054	10/1055	10/1056	10/1057	10/1058	10/1059	10/1060	10/1061	10/1062	10/1063	10/1064	10/1065	10/1066	10/1067	10/1068	10/1069	10/1070	10/1071	10/1072	10/1073	10/1074	10/1075	10/1076	10/1077	10/1078	10/1079	10/1080	10/1081	10/1082	10/1083	10/1084	10/1085	10/1086	10/1087	10/1088	10/1089	10/1090	10/1091	10/1092	10/1093	10/1094	10/1095	10/1096	10/1097	10/1098	10/1099	10/1100	10/1101	10/1102	10/1103	10/1104	10/1105	10/1106	10/1107	10/1108	10/1109	10/1110	10/1111	10/1112	10/1113	10/1114	10/1115	10/1116	10/1117	10/1118	10/1119	10/1120	10/1121	10/1122	10/1123	10
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England's women squash players are hoping for a 21st consecutive title when the European Team Championships begin in Helsinki today. England - comprising Sue Wright, Cassie Jackman, Linda Charman and Jane Martin - have been drawn in Pool A for the qualifying round, alongside Scotland, France and Sweden.



International football: England achieve emphatic victory but fail to dispel doubts about defensive and midfield qualities

# Shearer tears open Portugal's gifts

By Glenn Moore  
at Wembley

England 3  
Portugal 0

EILEEN DREWERY can expect a rush of international managers at her door this morning after Glenn Hoddle's England gained a hilariously comfortable win at Wembley last night.

Outplayed in midfield for much of the game by the technically gifted Portuguese, England secured their biggest win over serious opposition under Hoddle through the critical strengths of excellent finishing and fine goalkeeping.

Alan Shearer scored twice and Teddy Sheringham once as England showed an attacking edge that, if repeated in June, could take them a long way.

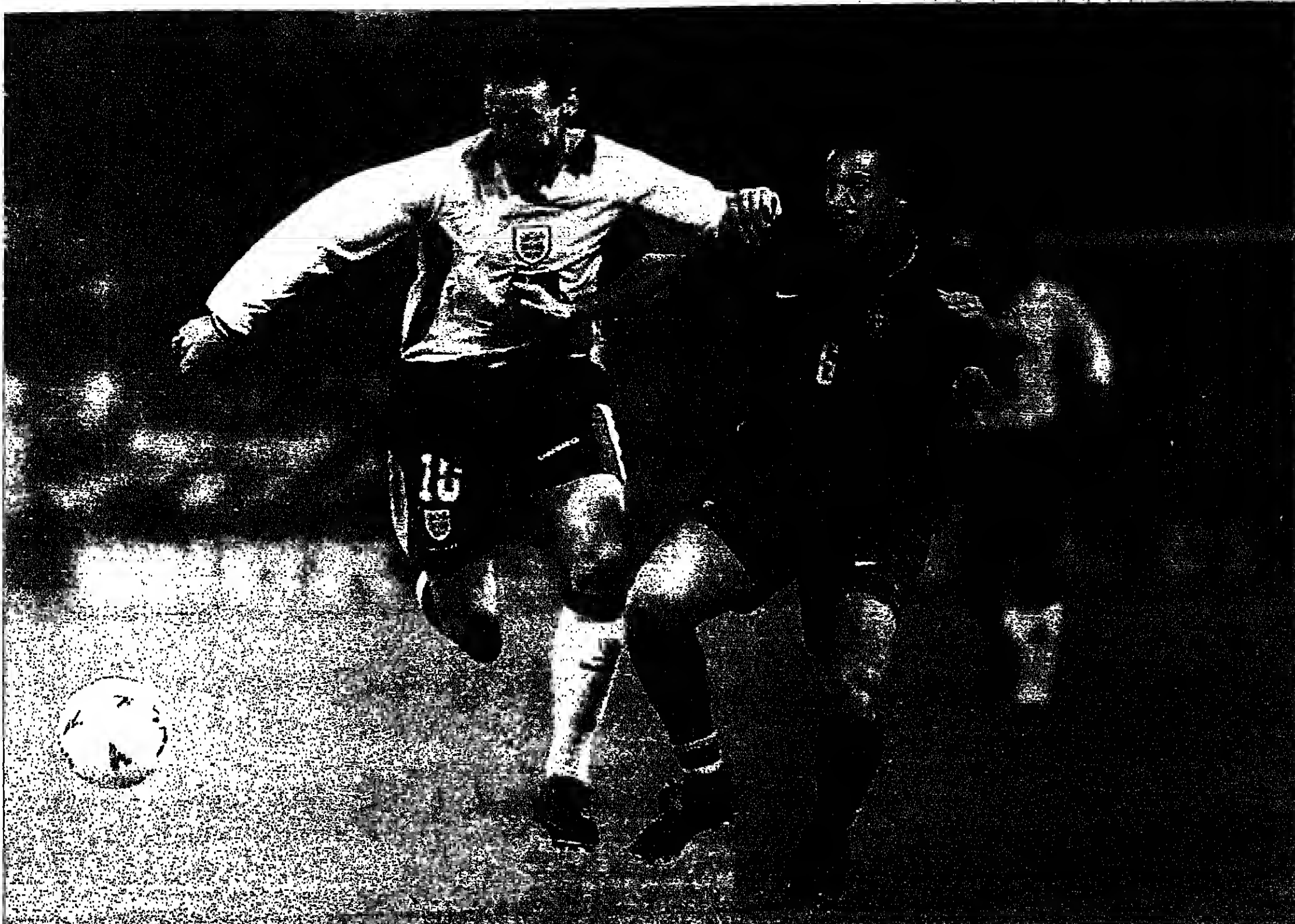
With Portugal fielding eight of the squad that made the quarter-finals of Euro '96 and England, (who had seven Euro '96 veterans) playing almost a first-choice team, the match had more credibility than most friendlies.

The only leading player missing for England was Paul Gascoigne whose injuries, as expected, had defied both mainstream and alternative medical cures. Paul Scholes was handed the often onerous responsibility of filling his role behind the familiar front pairing of Sheringham and Shearer.

The England SAS, as opposed to the former Blackburn one (Sutton and Shearer) which is unlikely to be seen at this level, was quickly into action with Sheringham heading over from Shearer's cross in the second minute. Two minutes later they traded places and England were ahead. Sheringham received a throw-in from Graeme Le Saux on the left and laid it back off to Le Saux, whose cross was deftly headed in by Shearer. It was a clinical finish even if Shearer's task was made easier by neither Manuel Dimas or Roberto Beto making a challenge.

Wembley, which had earlier accorded the late Lord Howell as good a minute's silence as anyone who was both a referee and politician is ever likely to get, cheered England's goal with considerably more enthusiasm than they had greeted the new World Cup song.

Six minutes later, however, they were forced into the rare position of applauding the opposition after an audacious move almost brought Portugal level. Luis Figo, of Barcelona, played a quick one-two with Jorge Cadete, the former Celtic hero, then dinkily chipped David Seaman from 15 yards. The ball just drifted wide but,



England's Teddy Sheringham (left) contests possession with Paulo Sousa, of Portugal, during last night's international at Wembley

Photograph: Justin Herbert/Allsport

as Ian Wright's standing ovation in the Royal Box illustrated, it deserved a goal.

Cadete had already gone close and, as Jose Calado tested Seaman and Tony Adams was forced to make a last-ditch clearance from Joao Pinto, it became evident that Portugal, like Chile two months ago, were here to make a game of it.

The visitors went on to dominate the half with Seaman having to deal with a number of 20-yard shots and several quick interchanges were only halted at the edge of the box. So pressed back were England that 3-5-2 quickly became 4-4-2

with Le Saux occupied by the busy Figo.

The one benefit of Portugal's control of possession was that England could show what a good counter-attacking team they are. After 26 minutes Shearer rolled a pass into the path of Le Saux whose shot was turned away for a corner by Victor Baia. The Barcelona reserve goalkeeper was stretched again 11 minutes later as Shearer and Sheringham set up David Beckham, whose left-foot shot was tipped over the bar.

Paul Ince had a weaker shot saved but it was Seaman who ended the half buster, making

a sharp save low to his left after Joao Pinto had seized on a loose ball in the box.

At half-time England brought on Paul Merson for Beckham - maybe he had a date to see his fiancée, Victoria, playing with the Spice Girls in the adjacent Wembley Arena. Before he had a chance to make an impact Manuel Diaz Vega, the referee, made an unexpected intervention on England's behalf. Less than a minute had gone when an attempted through ball by Ince took a large deflection off the Spaniard and fell for Sheringham. His finish was pitiless.

Campbell made a good challenge on Joao Pinto as Portugal continued to struggle to find a finish to match their approach play. Cadete, the most direct of their clever forwards, forced a near post save from Seaman just after the hour but, after 65 minutes, Shearer showed them what they were missing.

Another quick break found Batty, who had earlier been booked, bursting through the inside-left channel. His first time pass found Shearer unmarked in the centre and, from 20 yards, he thrashed the ball past Victor Baia.

With 13 minutes left Hoddle brought on Owen to a rousing cheer and he nearly scored within seconds, closing down Beto's clearance, racing clear and shooting into the side netting. He could easily have scored when released by Shearer a few minutes later but the referee inexplicably stopped play to dismiss Capucho rather than wait for a break. As Portugal's discipline went Owen should have had a penalty went brought down by Vitor Baia, but the referee not only denied that but also harshly disallowed a headed goal by Adams for pushing. Seaman also proved his

worth with more fine saves from Fernando Couto, twice, and Oceano as England ended with a clean sheet and their first victory over Portugal since 1969.

ENGLAND (3-4-1-2): Seaman (Aston Villa); Adams (Aston Villa), Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), Beckham (Manchester United), Ince (Liverpool); Batty (Newcastle United), Le Saux (Chelsea); Scholes (Manchester United); Sheringham (Manchester United); Shearer (Newcastle).

United, substitute Merson (Blackburn) for Beckham, 1-1; Owen (Liverpool) for Sheringham, 2-1.  
PORTUGAL (4-2-3-1): Vitor Baia (Barcelona); Abel Xavier (Real Madrid), Fernando Couto (Benfica), Beto (Sporting Lisbon), Dimas (Averano), Cadete (Sevilla), Paulo Sousa (Internacional), Paulinho Ribeiro (Porto); Figo (Barcelona), Joao Pinto (Benfica), Cadete (Sevilla), Substitutes: Barbone (Sporting Lisbon) for Dimas, 3-0; Capucho (Porto) for Joao, 3-1; Oceano (Sporting Lisbon) for Paulo Sousa, 3-2. Referee: M Diaz Vega (Spain).

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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3592, Thursday 23 April By Phil Wednesday's solution

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ACROSS

- Comfortable place for a retired woman? (3,2,5)
- Illegal activity soundtracked curtailed (4)
- Graduate after drink and some dancing? (5)
- Alien thing, real - but not a creature from outer space! (9)
- Damage horse, cutting tail (3)
- Opera extracts from Beethoven or Martino (5)
- Translation of Rilke made to appear ethereal? (9)
- Receives subjects and, with wisdom, understands (4,3,7)
- Just what you need! (4,10)
- Rather cowardly? How silly to be perturbed about end of battle (9)
- Mad character, halfheartedly becomes one to show animosity (5)
- Dread turning over in the water? (5)
- One has no rubbish, getting edition with explanatory comments (9)
- Say the point is to return from a drunken spree (5)
- Island - it's seen on the horizon, we hear (4)
- Suntanned salesman carrying river fish (5,5)

DOWN

- Prohibition affecting elderly? It does for several years! (8)
- Fed up about me coming up with a black mark (7)
- Evidence of a poor shave can make you go mad (4,2,3,5)
- Rod's verse is rewritten to appear too finely arrayed (9)
- Bizarre end to life, being thrown into lake (5)
- Closing off (by the sound of it) part of room (7)
- Painter carrying good drawing material? (6)
- That bet is arranged after title-holder shows eagerness (6,2,3,3)
- Detective with dog finding item in handbag? (3,6)
- Hungry to translate contents of rump site (8)
- Crafty netplay in abundance (7)
- Vivaldi, perhaps, showing a new fashion in orchestration, initially (7)
- How one could gain admission to type of surgery? (2,4)
- Bury artist's departed father? (5)

## Captain points way to success in France

By Clive White

FOR a couple of moments last night it was like the good old days at Ewood Park as Alan Shearer and Graeme Le Saux combined to devastating effect. England will need to revive all that team work - and some more - if they are to enjoy success in the World Cup finals this summer.

In the early stages of last night's match at Wembley the only moment which brought Ian Wright jumping to his feet in the VIP box in enthusiastic appreciation was a non-scoring move by Portugal rather than anything the Blackburn old boys could produce: a delectable 1-2 after 11 minutes involving Figo and Jorge Cadete.

Shearer was making only his second international start in 10 months following those debilitating pre-season injuries. It took him only four minutes to register his 17th goal for his country in 38 appearances - a strike rate of which any forward in the world would be proud - even if the Portuguese marking left something to be desired.

Coming only a couple of minutes after an abject header by Teddy Sheringham, Shearer's goal demonstrated to his fellow strikers the standards which are required at the highest level.

Full fitness and razor sharpness still elude him, which perhaps is only to be expected given the length of his inactivity. It was noticeable in a recent League game against Barnsley that on one occasion he did not even possess the necessary puff to keep up with Temur Ketsbaia in an obvious breakaway chance. Fifty-four days ought to be enough to hlow away the remaining cobwebs before he gets down to the real business.

The problem yesterday, his occasional assistance from Le Saux apart, was a lack of support and service rather than too much of it. How he must have missed the penetration of Paul Gascoigne's passing. England's midfield in the first half was a curious no-man's land devoid of both creativity and defensive excellence.

It was a scoreline that defied explanation even before Sheringham added a fortuitous second goal. But Shearer's personal second was truly a joy to behold. He has not scored many goals from open play this season - in fact just one - and the manner in which he volleyed home David Batty's lob pass was just like the Shearer of old, meatily struck and a certain winner from the moment it left his right foot. Naturally, Le Saux instigated the move.

One could only surmise what the outcome might have been had Portugal been blessed with a Shearer in their front line. Glenn Hoddle, though, despite his faith in Sheringham's innate international qualities, may have to think again about the ideal foil for England's star forward for France 98.

There was little doubt about where the sympathy of the Wembley crowd lay, judging by the noisy reception they gave Michael Owen when he replaced Sheringham with 13 minutes remaining. It did not take the Liverpool youngster a moment to underline his international credentials when he made a thrilling run which was lacking only in the final execution.

SAINT  
GEORGE'S  
DAY.  
MAKE  
A KNIGHT  
OF IT.

BOMBARDIER  
Brewery  
BITTER

CHARLES WELLS FAMILY BREWERY, BEDFORD. EST. 1876  
BREWING FOR ENGLAND

هكنا من الشرح